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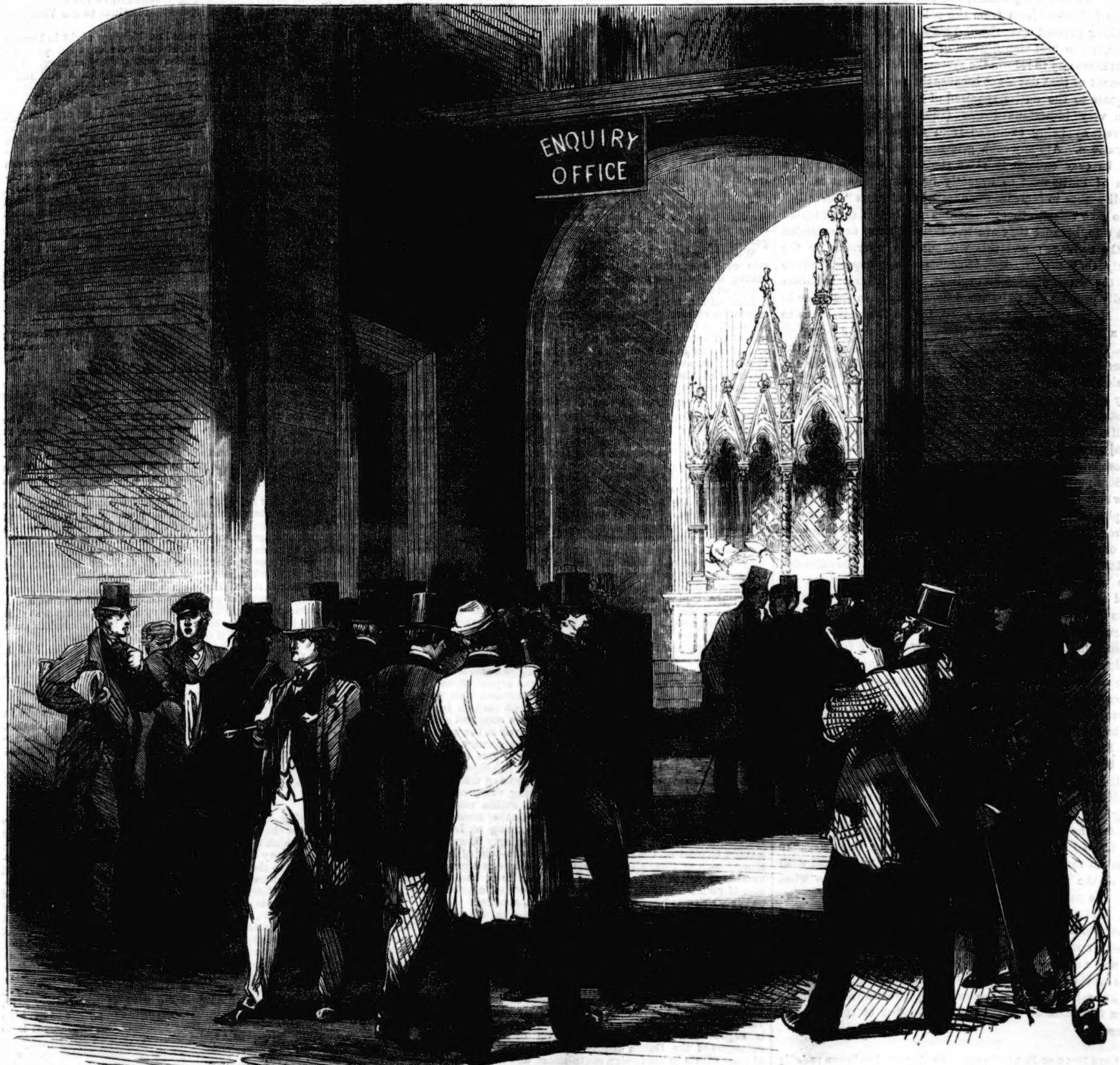
THE REFORM QUESTION.

THE one thing certain in reference to the great Reform question seems to be, that a Reform Bill of some kind will be introduced next Session. It is not by any means certain that the Government will bring it in; indeed, Sir George Grey has already explained that, unless called upon to do so by the voice of Parliament and of the country, the Government must not be expected to move in the matter at all. If, however, it should appear at the coming election that a considerable number of voters desire an extension of the suffrage, and if the same wish should be expressed by a majority of the new House of Commons, then her Majesty's Ministers will act ac-

cordingly, and will do their best to deserve a continuance of past favours.

This is not a very dignified position for a Government to take up; but it is one which the present Cabinet has always held in regard to foreign questions, and it has now had abundant opportunities for testing its convenience. Of late years, though Parliament has not been reformed, the mode of conducting the government of the country has undergone a most remarkable change. Formerly the Ministers of the Crown had on all questions a policy of their own, which the House of Commons might or might not approve of; only in the latter case the Ministers resigned. Now, Ministers have

no settled opinions—which is much the same thing as having no principles—and their only ambition is to preside over the House of Commons and direct in some measure the course of its deliberations. Let a Ministry observe such a line of policy as this persistently, and it might keep, if not in power, at least in place, for an indefinite time. It is the system which the *Times* newspaper is accused of following, and which enables that journal, no doubt, to retain its large number of readers and its immense influence. But what answers very well in the case of a commercial speculation may, after all, fail in the case of a Government; and it is quite possible that Ministers may feel themselves compelled, before the next Parliament meets,



THE ENQUIRY-OFFICE, DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

to decide whether or not they will recommend an extension of the franchise, and if so, to what extent. The Government cannot be eternally allowed to "see what Parliament and the country think" on every possible subject of legislation or negotiation; and it is to be hoped the time is approaching when they will be forced to come forward with a policy of their own.

At present, it is true, the most various opinions are expressed everywhere on the question of Reform. In the House of Commons the only two men of eminence who have pronounced against all change in the existing system are Mr. Lowe and Mr. Horsman—that is to say, a member of what is called the Liberal party, and an independent member of Liberal tendencies, in the proper acceptance of the word. Mr. Disraeli, in spite of his Conservatism and his determination to oppose all projects in which what he conceives to be the fundamental principles of the Constitution are lost sight of, is still favourable to Parliamentary reform of a certain kind; and, in the debate on Mr. Baines's bill, he took occasion to remind the House—very significantly, as it seemed to us—that Lord Derby was, as Lord Stanley, a member of the Cabinet which passed the Reform Bill of 1832. Indeed, are not Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli themselves the authors of a Reform Bill, and was it not the rejection of that measure, on the ground of its insufficiency, that brought the present ministry into office?

In fact, almost all the prominent men in Parliament, and especially the leaders on both sides of the house, are pledged to a Reform policy. The only question, and the really great question, is, of what nature is the reform to be? In 1830 it was not proposed to remodel our Parliamentary system because the existing Parliament was considered incompetent as a legislative body, which, according to Mr. Lowe, would be the only valid reason in the present day for introducing an alteration in our electoral system. The Parliament which was dissolved in presence of the Reform agitation had passed some excellent laws—among others, the law relieving our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects from the political disabilities which had so long pressed upon them. This was certainly a "liberal" measure, in the best signification of the term; and yet it was thought necessary to reform the system which had given us the Parliament of that day—not because the assembly was thought inadequate to the duties required of it, but mainly because certain very important towns (such as Manchester) felt aggrieved at being excluded from all participation in its deliberations. Are any such grievances felt now? If so, it would be easy enough to state the reasons which render a reform of Parliament so urgently necessary. As it is, Mr. Disraeli wishes to increase the number of electors "laterally," so as to give votes to those numerous members of the educated classes who, because they are not householders, are excluded from the suffrage; and this without any reference to the property they may possess, if such property happens not to be in the form of houses or land. The Liberal members generally propose not to "extend the suffrage," in the sense in which Mr. Disraeli uses the word, but to lower it so as to admit a certain number of the best class of working men.

The Conservative Reform Bill, introduced under the auspices of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, provided for the admission of foremen, overseers of ordinary workmen who had laid by a certain amount of money in the savings-bank; but the establishment of these franchises was considered "fanciful" by the opponents of the bill, and it is argued by the majority of Liberals that the best class of working men are those who live in the best houses. To this theory many objections may be made; and the objections that are made to it show how very uncertain the advocates of reform are as to the principles on which Reform should be based. A few Reformers start from the assumption that everyone has naturally a right to vote; others hold that the exercise of the suffrage is not a right but a privilege, and that this privilege should be extended to the working classes in such a manner that about five per cent of the entire number would enjoy it; others again argue that, to draw a line between men paying a rent of six pounds and men paying a rent of only five, is to make an arbitrary and irrational distinction; while one or two, taking fright at the difficulties of the subject, say plainly that, though in favour of Liberal legislation generally, they cannot approve of a measure of reform which, in sound logic, can only be the precursor of similar measures, of which the ultimate effect must be, not to modify, but to revolutionise the system on which England has hitherto been governed.

The best argument in favour of intrusting a certain amount of political power to the working classes appears to be this: that hitherto those workmen who have possessed the right of voting have never shown the least disposition to act in concert as a class apart from the rest of the community, while by being treated as a separate class they may in time persuade themselves that their interests are really not identical with those of the rest of society. In what manner and to what extent this power is to be confided to them is not easy to determine. But the question has been raised, and, next Session, will have to be settled. The rejection of Mr. Baines's bill is, in itself, not an important matter. No one expected it to pass, and numbers of true Liberals voted against it. The debate on the bill, however, has been of the highest interest, for it has called forth expressions of opinion on the subject of Reform from almost every leading member of the House of Commons.

THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, from motives known probably only to himself, had a decided objection to draw from time to time his half pay as it became due, the result of which was that at the time of his death a large amount had accumulated. The executors, however, have since claimed the amount, and are about to receive the whole of the arrears of twenty years' accumulations.

THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE BUILDING.

BEHIND the houses on one side of Stephen's-green is a plot of ground once an eyesore and a nuisance to the neighbourhood—a sort of receptacle for the dust and filth of the vicinity. Thanks to Mr. Benjamin Lee Guinness, who had already done enough, by the magnificent restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral, to earn the lasting gratitude of his fellow-citizens and of Irishmen generally, this ground was presented to a committee as a site for the Exhibition of 1865. Here, then, public spirit, which for long enough was thought to have died out in Dublin, has erected a building which does infinite credit to its originators, and which will, it is pleasant to know, remain a permanent ornament of that beautiful city as a winter garden, where, as Tennyson somewhere sarcastically puts it, there will be

Squares of tropic summer shut
And warm'd in crystal cases.

The building consists of a central hall, with galleries, and this will serve in the future as a permanent museum, lecture-hall, ball-room, and the like. Round two sides of it stretches the palace of glass, the ground-plan of which may be likened to a carpenter's square. It is doubtful whether figures convey any tangible idea to the ordinary mind; but it may be as well to give the dimensions of that portion of the structure which forms the Exhibition proper, and is to be the winter garden. It is, inclusive of both portions of the nave, about 450 ft. in length, and the nave is 50 ft. 6 in. in width, 60 ft. in height from floor to ridge, and 45 ft. to the spring of the roof. The galleries which surround it are 16 ft. 10 in. wide, and the width of each bay, from pillar to pillar, is also 16 ft. 10 in. The roof is a segment of a circle of 50 ft. diameter, and is constructed in what may be termed, though not quite accurately, a series of plates, which are movable for purposes of ventilation, by means of a centre wheel worked by a rack and pinion, and acting upon the frame by connecting cords. In the middle of the longer arm of the plan is, on one side, a large recess, where the orchestra and the organ are erected. On the other side is a short transept with apsidal end, architecturally speaking, one of the best features of the building. The pillars and girders are stencilled in white and blue, and pendent from the girders in the bays are red and white inscriptions, showing where the goods from the respective countries and in the various classes are to be found. Outside the central building, and close to the chief approach, is the machinery annexe, which, being merely temporary and like all machinery annexes, needs no particular description. But we cannot thus dismiss the grounds, which are, at a guess, about 150 yards square. They are exquisitely laid out in slopes and terraces, with fountains and beds, conservatories and rockwork. In the middle of the further side will be a very effective waterfall, with which great pains have evidently been taken. Here the geologist will find a rare treat, for under and about the fall and the basin into which the water will plunge have been massed specimens of some of the most beautiful Irish rocks. Here are quartz with mica running through it like veins of silver, greenstone with quartz veins, grey granite glistening with mica, dark basalt, limestone of coralline formation, and we know not what besides. In the rock-work are ferns and primroses, great roots of ancient oak from the bogs, and little tiny mosses which fill up some of the interstices and tone down the whole. Feathery trees droop over the basin from which the water descends; and when the lapse of time has worn away the new look of the arrangement, the rockery, which is very beautiful now, will be the loveliest portion of these lovely grounds, which have, among other things, a maze, wherein, when it is better grown, the Dublin folks may lose themselves to their hearts' content. By the side of the grounds is a house which is being fitted up for Mr. Guinness, who has built at the end of his private garden a very elegant little pavilion, in which, overlooking the garden of the Exhibition, he will be able to have a library, and where he may enjoy the prospect which has been created on the basis of his own generosity.

When outside the building, unless at the rear and on one wing, you cannot see much of the glass erection, which, nevertheless, taking the two transepts together, is about 700 ft. long by fully 100 ft. wide. These airy, graceful, and broad-galleried halls are hidden, on the front view, by temporary wooden erections for the exhibition of carriages and machinery of various kinds, and by the refreshment-rooms. From the garden the "Crystal Palace" is seen to full advantage. Towering up, in beautifully-designed sections, and glittering in the sunlight, it is really a noble structure. It is to this spacious and magnificent edifice, which will be permanent, like the rest of the building, that the whole Exhibition, except the statuary and paintings, is confined.

PREPARING FOR THE OPENING DAY.

One of our Engravings represents the state of things in the interior of the building while the preparations for the opening were in progress; and it certainly needed all one's faith in "things coming right in the end" to induce a belief that order would spring before Tuesday morning out of the chaos which existed in many of the departments of the exhibition building. The impression that the whole scene was a mad whirl of objectless effort was strongly suggested to the mind on Saturday evening. It is impossible to convey an idea of the apparently frightful confusion that then reigned; only those who have been cool spectators of similar preparations can form a conception of it. What with the issuing of directions to their assistants by hundreds of exhibitors, the sound of busy hammers, and other instruments of industry, the thundering along the floor of heavily-laden trucks, the hurrying to and fro of half-crazed officials, the testing of the striking powers of a monster clock, the tuning exercises of a foreign brass band—the more agreeable notes breaking through the din of a peal of melodious bells in the garden beyond, upon which some one was experimenting—and a crash now and then, when an accident occurred to an article of pottery or glass, the babel was unprecedented. Yet, *ferret opus*. On a closer examination it was apparent that all these seemingly conflicting operations were somehow working towards a harmonious end. Even in a single day the change in the aspect of things was remarkable. Walls naked and rude were covered with paintings which one determined at once to examine with care, to feast upon at the first opportunity. Brilliant glass cases occupied spaces formerly vacant, with goods arranged and displayed in the most artistic manner. Statues and busts filled prominent corners, as if made for them. Here an Armstrong or Whitworth gun (the ordnance collection is large, and contains every novelty in projectiles); there a sort of Chinese palace erected by an enterprising manufacturer of fancy soaps; further on a display of carpeting, sumptuously rich in colour and fine in texture; at another point within view a magnificent array of French wares from Tours and other cities famed for their art-manufactures; an interesting grouping of Irish ores; a splendid assortment of native poplins; glitteringly bound and ornamented bundles of Ulster linens; gorgeous caskets of bijouterie—around each of these glazed mimic treasure-houses a greater or less number of men gather, as thick as bees in a hive, and the intensity of each batch upon its little centre of interest created a total of power which one felt could not fail to work wonders.

Had the opening been delayed for another month many articles of great attraction, which it will ultimately contain, would have been in their places from the first, and among them the valuable Italian pictures which are to be exhibited at Florence on the 17th inst., at the festival in honour of Dante's memory. The Italian Government freely consented to forward this splendid collection when that celebration terminates, and it is expected that as many as 100 cases of articles of rare value will then be added to the catalogue of the International Exhibition. The King of Italy has sent, among other valuables, a topaz of large size and some pounds' weight, on which is engraved a beautiful representation of the Nativity. The managers of the Dublin display will owe a vast deal of the success of their efforts to the foreign contributors, and not the least to those from the territory of Victor Emmanuel. The Papal authorities seem also to have felt it incumbent upon them to show their peculiar interest in an Irish exposition, and the Roman court will, accordingly, arrest the wondering eyes of untravelled visitors.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales and suite started from London for Dublin on Monday morning, in order that his Royal Highness might be present at the opening of the Exhibition on Tuesday. The Prince embarked at Holyhead on board the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert at 2.30 p.m., and arrived off Kingstown at six o'clock. Immense crowds had assembled along the piers and on the high grounds overlooking the harbour to witness the landing and to welcome the Prince.

During the afternoon long trains ran from Dublin every quarter of an hour, and yet they could scarcely accommodate the numbers going out to see his Royal Highness. Great numbers went down also in the Dublin and Kingstown steamers. After waiting a considerable time the people were gratified by the sight of the Royal yacht, followed at a respectful distance by the mail-steamer Leinster and three other steamers crowded with excursionists. The Royal George was manned to the top of her highest mast, and presented a beautiful picture, with the lighthouse and the crowded pier for the background. When the Victoria and Albert neared the mouth of the harbour, the Black Prince, the Liverpool, and the Royal George simultaneously thundered forth the Royal salute, which was reverberated from the shore.

When the Prince was recognised, standing on the bridge of the vessel with Sir R. Peel, an enthusiastic cheer broke forth, first from the crew of the Royal George and then from the spectators who crowded Carlisle Pier. The Prince acknowledged the compliment, waving his hat and smiling joyously, evidently delighted with his reception, which was most cordial. When he landed, a Royal salute was fired by the artillery stationed at the monument of George IV. The Prince was received by his Excellency Lord Wodehouse, Sir George Brown, Commander of the Forces in Ireland; General Sir Thomas Larcom, the Chancellor and several judges, the Hon. George Hancock, and several of the railway directors. He was accompanied by the Prince of Leiningen, Lord Dufferin, Sir R. Peel, Lord Spencer, General Knollys, Colonel Teesdale, and Colonel Curzon. A special train was in waiting on the pier to convey the Royal party to Dublin. At the Westland-row terminus large numbers of people were waiting in the adjoining streets for the arrival of the train. Numerous flags were suspended from the houses in Westland-row, Lincoln-place, Nassau-street, Great Brunswick-street, and along the line of route to the park. The Lord Mayor, with some members of the Corporation in their robes, were in attendance at the station to receive the Prince. The Lord-Lieutenant's carriage was in waiting to convey his Royal Highness to the Viceregal Lodge, where a distinguished party assembled to meet him at dinner. There was afterwards an evening party, at which were also gathered the most eminent persons in the city.

At Kingstown the 78th Highlanders were present on the pier as a guard of honour to the Prince, and at Westland-row the 60th Rifles. The 11th Hussars escorted him from the terminus to the Viceregal Lodge.

A number of houses were illuminated on Monday night in honour of the Prince's visit. The principal streets were crowded with the working classes. They behaved in the most orderly manner. The illuminations were repeated on Tuesday evening on a still more extensive scale.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The ceremonial opening of the Exhibition took place on Tuesday, under the happiest auspices. The weather was beautiful, and, as a consequence, the streets were alive with holiday-seekers from an early hour. The neighbourhood of the Exhibition building was soon thronged with vehicles of every description; and when eleven o'clock (the hour for opening the doors) arrived the rush of well-dressed company was greater than had probably ever before been seen in Dublin. The naves, galleries, and halls were all soon filled to overflowing, so that long before the Prince arrived there must have been 30,000 persons present.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by Lord and Lady Wodehouse, the Duke of Cambridge, a brilliant Staff, and an escort of the 11th Hussars (the Prince's Own), passed through the city in a close carriage, greatly to the disappointment of the thousands upon thousands of persons, principally ladies, who crowded the windows along his route from the Viceregal Lodge. He was received at the Exhibition Palace by the Exhibition committee, including his Grace the Duke of Leinster; Mr. G. Sanders, the chairman; Mr. G. Wood Maunsell; Mr. Bagot, the secretary; Mr. Parkinson, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and the members of the Corporation in their robes, together with the Judges and several of the leading members of the Bar. On the arrival of the Prince the National Anthem and other music selected for the occasion was performed by the splendid orchestra, composed of nearly 1000 performers; after which addresses were presented by the Exhibition committee and by the Corporation of Dublin, to which the Prince made appropriate replies. A procession was then formed, at the head of which his Royal Highness made the tour of the building, receiving renewed evidences of loyal welcome as each new department was reached. His Royal Highness passed high encomiums on the sculpture, and stopped before several of the pictures in the gallery.

The Prince and his cortège having made the complete tour of the building, receiving the most enthusiastic plaudits everywhere from the vast assemblage, returned to the dais, which then—with the two Royal Princes, the Lord Lieutenant, the Irish Court in full uniform, the numerous naval and military officers, and the various municipal bodies in their robes—presented a most brilliant and animated appearance. Mr. Parkinson, the principal comptroller of the Exhibition, presented his Royal Highness with the key of the building, which his Royal Highness graciously accepted, and then with due solemnity declared the Exhibition to be opened. A rocket was shot into the air, the artillery thundered in response from a hundred guns, and the inaugural ceremonial of the Exhibition terminated.

The Prince was entertained in the evening at a splendid ball in the Mansion House by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, to which a large number of the nobility and gentry were invited to meet his Royal Highness.

REVIEW IN PHENIX PARK.

On Wednesday afternoon there was a review of 4500 troops in Phoenix Park. The Prince wore the uniform of the 10th Hussars, and was loudly cheered. The proceedings commenced at a quarter-past three and ended before six. The weather was very bad, but nearly 100,000 people were present.

In the evening his Royal Highness dined with the Commander of the Forces at Kilmarnham.

THE INQUIRY OFFICE.

The Engraving on our front page represents the entrance to the Inquiry Office of the Exhibition, one of the busiest portions of the building, and which is always crowded with natives and foreigners. Opposite the Inquiry Office door there is erected a large and handsome monument to the memory of the late Viscount Masserene and Ferrard, whose untimely death, in consequence of a fall in his own demesne at Antrim Castle not long since, excited universal regret and sympathy. The style of this monument is Lombardo-Venetian, and occupies a space 20 ft. in height and 9 ft. in width, and is covered with the richest Gothic mouldings and emblematic figures. Under the canopy is placed a full-length reclining statue of the late nobleman, dressed in the robes of a Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, and said to be an excellent likeness. The supporters of the Masserene and Ferrard titles are carved on each side of the inscription-plate on the base. The monument, the whole effect of which is massive and imposing, is the work of Mr. Joseph Kirk, the well-known sculptor of Dublin, and adds not a little to his high reputation. After the close of the Exhibition this monument is to be permanently erected in Antrim Church.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS has resolved to buy up the private rights connected with the commons and open spaces in the neighbourhood of London and keep them (the commons, &c.) uninclosed for the benefit of the public; the necessary funds to be raised by the sale of certain portions of the commons for building purposes.

THE STORY OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

MUCH interest having been excited by the recent discovery of the malversations of Mr. L. Edmunds in the Patent Office, and by the transactions subsequent thereon, and known as the "Edmunds and Westbury Scandals," our readers, we daresay, will be glad to peruse the following succinct narrative of the history of the extraordinary conduct of the late clerk of the Patents, which we copy from the *Times* :—

In 1833 Mr. Edmunds, then the Lord Chancellor's pursebearer, was appointed clerk of the Patents, with a salary of £250 a year, and an allowance of £150 a year to pay the expenses of the office. It was his duty to receive the fees payable at the office and pay the chief part of them into the Exchequer, another part (formerly appropriated to the use of the Lord Chancellor) to the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery, and another part to the Clerk of the Hanaper, the fees to be paid over by him every quarter and the payments verified by affidavit. The fees received were considerable; in some years they exceeded £9000. Still larger sums were paid into the office every year for stamps to be procured and affixed to instruments which had to pass the Great Seal. In fact, public money amounting in one year to £30,000, and in the last thirty years to more than £461,000, passed through the hands of Mr. Edmunds, or rather of his clerk, Mr. Ruscoe, for Mr. Edmunds never performed the duties of the office in person, neither did he ever pay anything to Mr. Ruscoe for performing them.

The Italian Government has issued a somewhat important circular in reference to two questions of interest—the withdrawal of the Religious Corporations Bill and the negotiations at Rome. The Government explains (through the Minister of the Interior) that the opposition on the part of the Chamber and other difficulties led to the belief that the bill for the suppression of religious corporations would not be passed this Session, and it was, therefore, thought prudent to withdraw it. But the Government has decided upon bringing it forward again next Session. In reference to the mission of Signor Vegezzi to Rome, the circular seems to convey the idea that the negotiations thus far have not led to anything. The Government states that, while it could not refuse the invitation of the Pope, it could not deviate in any respect from the fundamental political principles of the country. Meanwhile, Signor Vegezzi has left Rome for Turin, but it is asserted that he is to return to the Eternal City within a fortnight.

In the sitting of the Lower House of the Reichsrath on the 8th inst. the sum of 7,150,800 fl. was voted for the marine budget, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, instead of the 9,389,400 fl. asked by the Government. The House afterwards voted the general Budget for 1865, which states the revenue at 522,045,860 fl., and the expenditure at 514,905,453 fl. A special bill will be voted for meeting the deficit.

WAR NEWS.

The changed aspect of the war had enabled the Government to reduce its military expenditure by a million dollars a day. Soldiers in hospital not requiring further medical treatment are to be paid off and discharged, and prisoners who will take the oath of allegiance will be released upon such terms as the President deems consistent with the public safety.

General Hancock had announced that most of Mosby's cavalry had surrendered upon the terms accepted by General Lee. Mosby himself resolutely held out. Hancock had offered a reward of 2000 dols. for his capture. General Dick Taylor and other Confederate commanders were said to be willing to surrender if they obtained reasonable terms.

General Halleck had assumed the command of Virginia and the portion of North Carolina not controlled by Sherman. The Potomac army also comes under his command. On the 25th he issued an order removing all restrictions upon domestic commerce with his department, except in articles contraband of war. He has notified to the War Department that the amount of funds believed to be in President Davis's possession is estimated at from 6,000,000 dollars to 13,000,000 dollars, in gold.

General Lord, commanding at Richmond, had notified the paroled officers of the army of Northern Virginia who wish to leave the country that they would be furnished with passports and a passage to Halifax, Nova Scotia, upon application to the Provost-Marshal-General of his department.

Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, had been tracked by the Federals to a farm near Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, in a barn in which he, with an accomplice named Harold, had taken refuge. The barn was set fire to, and in the mêlée Booth was shot dead and Harold was captured. Junius Booth, the brother of Wilkes, had been arrested. The body of Wilkes Booth was claimed by his relatives; but this request was denied, and he was buried in secret by the authorities. Booth is said to have cursed the Government to his last moment, only ceasing his imprecations to send a message to his mother. He had sustained a severe fracture in one leg, supposed to have been caused by a fall from his horse on the night of the murder. A Doctor Mudd, who set the assassin's leg and supplied him with crutches, had been arrested.

An awful calamity had occurred on the Mississippi. A steamer with 2000 paroled Federal prisoners took fire, when 1400 lives were lost.

STRONG LANGUAGE.—The Duke of Cambridge is not remarkable for elegance of language when out of temper, but he is said to have a superior in strong invectives in the person of an officer commanding one of the camps. Some while ago the officer had been absent on leave, and about the period of his expected return the Commander-in-Chief repaired to the camp to hold a field-day. On being received by the Aides-de-Camp, his Royal Highness asked if — had returned? The answer was, "Yes, Sir; he arrived last night." "Has he resumed the command?" inquired the Prince. "Yes, Sir," replied the Aide-de-Camp, with the most consummate gravity; "he swore himself in this morning."

for him. Until this latter obtained an official salary in 1852 (when the Patent Law Amendment Act came into force, and Mr. Edmunds also had an additional salary of £600 a year), Mr. Ruscoe's emolument appears to have consisted of public money kept back from the Government without just cause, with some small gratuities from some of the patent agents, and the profit upon boxes which he sold for containing patents. Neither did Mr. Edmunds ever pay any portion of the cost of the parchment or of the expenses attending the preparation of charters and patents, nor any other of the expenses of the office; they were defrayed by Mr. Ruscoe out of the stamp discounts which belonged to the Government, and the sums which he deducted from the fees received for Government work in the performance of his duties Mr. Ruscoe was subjected to little or no superintendence or control by Mr. Edmunds, and no proper accounts of the receipts and payments of the money passing through the office have been kept. The fee-books previous to 1807 have been lost or destroyed, and it is stated that no fee-book was kept between 1852 and 1857. Under these circumstances, it has been found necessary, in the investigation which has recently taken place, to resort to other sources of information; but the gentlemen who conducted the investigation, and from whose report all our statements are taken—Mr. Greenwood, Q.C., and Mr. Hindmarch, Q.C.—are confident that Mr. Edmunds is chargeable with sums received for fees to a greater amount than is shown by the account which have thus been enabled to make out, and that fees have been received of which no account has been kept in the office, because, during the investigation, Mr. Edmunds has sent in to the Treasury an account in which a larger receipt of fees is acknowledged in some years than the amount of which they had been able to obtain any particulars.

In order to show more clearly the irregularities and deficiencies of Mr. Edmunds, an account has been prepared, containing on the debit side of it the whole of the fees payable to the Exchequer which it has been ascertained that Mr. Edmunds has received in every quarter of a year, grouping together the fees received in two or more quarters, where necessary, so as to accord with the payments made by Mr. Edmunds from time to time into the Exchequer, which are on the credit side of the account. For Mr. Edmunds soon became very irregular in his payments into the Exchequer, sometimes making payments for two, three, or even five quarters at one time, instead of quarterly, as required by the Act of Parliament. Mr. Ruscoe made up at first monthly and afterwards every quarter an account of his receipts, and gave or sent it to Mr. Edmunds, paying to him or into his "Patent Office account" at Coutts's the money which the accounts showed to be payable to him, so that the fees received in each quarter of a year were always in Mr. Edmunds's hands within a few days after the end of the quarter; but Mr. Edmunds delayed his payments of them into the Exchequer for longer and longer periods after he had received them from Mr. Ruscoe. Thus his payment on account of fees received in all the five quarters ending March, 1839, was not made until August, 1839; his payment on account of the two quarters ending in December, 1846, was made in April, 1848; his payment on account of the two quarters ending in December, 1850, was not made until August, 1852, and the whole of the payments made to the Exchequer by Mr. Edmunds previously to the discovery of his defalcations. And with regard to the amount of the sums which Mr. Edmunds paid into the Exchequer, it appears that the first few payments were correct, or nearly so, but afterwards they became frequently less in amount than the fees actually received, and occasionally the deficiencies were very considerable. Thus the fees payable into the Consolidated Fund for the three quarters ending December, 1837, amounted to £1634, but the sum of £1402 only was paid into the Exchequer. The fees for two quarters of 1844, amounting to £1444, had never been paid at all when this investigation commenced. For the first two quarters of 1849 Mr. Ruscoe paid into Mr. Edmunds's "Patent Office account" at Coutts's, £1736 as the amount of the fees received, but Mr. Edmunds paid over to the Exchequer only £1197, a sum not corresponding with the amount of fees for either quarter. It seems impossible to ascribe the withholding of such sums to any mistake.

In December last months after the investigation of Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Hindmarch commenced, Mr. Edmunds rendered to the Treasury an account of fees received by him in every year that he was in office, and of the sums paid by him every year into the Exchequer. This account shows that by his own admission he had received up to August, 1852 (his receipts, say the two gentlemen just named, were, in fact, larger), £51,245, and he had only paid into the Exchequer £46,055, leaving a deficiency of £5190, and, this being after the date of his last payment into the Exchequer, he has continued to withhold that sum from the Exchequer for twelve years—namely, until after the discovery of his defalcations. About the time of that last payment into the Exchequer the Patent Law Amendment Act came into operation and abolished the fees previously payable on patents for inventions. But there were still fees received on other patents and charters which ought to have been paid into the Exchequer, as required by the Act of Parliament. At the commencement of the inquiry, however, Mr. Edmunds had not only failed to pay any part of the £5190 into the Exchequer, but had allowed the subsequent fees payable by him into the Exchequer to accumulate in his hands to the extent of a further sum of £2682, making together £7872. It was not till September, 1864, that he paid over this sum.

The various assignments obtained from the Exchequer by Mr. Edmunds remained in his possession unknown to every person but himself. It has been mentioned that he was bound to verify the receipts by affidavit every quarter, and Mr. Ruscoe regularly prepared and transmitted or delivered to Mr. Edmunds engrossments of affidavits to be sworn by him, verifying the sums to be paid into the Exchequer as the amount of fees really received. Mr. Ruscoe knew that the affidavits would be false, but he says that Mr. Edmunds also knew them to be false; so Mr. Ruscoe went on preparing them year by year. But it was a mere farce. Mr. Edmunds allowed Mr. Ruscoe to believe that he actually made the false affidavit year by year, but he did not, in fact, swear to them: he admits that he has them still in his possession. He alleges that as he found, on the first occasion, that the Controller of the Exchequer would not receive the affidavit, he never made another. The fact is that the affidavits were not required at the office of the Controller of the Exchequer, but at the Treasury; and Mr. Edmunds did make the proper affidavits on the first three payments, and transmitted them to the Treasury; but he made none afterwards, and the deductions which he made from the public money explain why he did not make the affidavits.

It is clear from the public money expenditure why he did not make the advances. It has to be stated that some of at least of the moneys which Mr. Edmunds received from Mr. Ruscoe for the fees of office never were paid into the "Patent Office account" at Coutts's. A sum of £434 for Patent Office fees was paid by Mr. Ruscoe, in 1845, to Mr. Edmunds, or to his private account at Coutts's; but it never found its way into his "Patent Office account" there. It also appears that the sums withdrawn by Mr. Edmunds from the "Patent Office account" at Coutts's and transferred to his private banking account, in the period between 1834 and 1857, amounted to £5669. Other sums appear to have been taken from the "Patent Office account" for Mr. Edmunds's private purposes. In 1840 and 1841 sums amounting to £600 were thus withdrawn from the "Patent Office account," and paid to Mr. Leman, who states that they were received by him in repayment of loans he had made to Mr. Edmunds. Mr. Edmunds, in August, 1852, had in his hands, according to his account, £5190, money that ought to have been paid into the Exchequer; but the balance to the credit of the "Patent Office account" at Coutts's at that time was only £2777, so that he must have misappropriated, by applying to his own use, £2412 of those fees. He admits that at the end of 1867 he had detained £7666 from the Exchequer, but the balance standing to his credit in the "Patent Office account" at Coutts's was only £3230. He increased the balance by £1450 a few days after Mr. Greenwood completed his report, in January, 1863, on the defalcations of Mr. Smith, a clerk in the Patent Office. But, in fact, the sums which Mr. Edmunds had withheld from the Exchequer were much larger than his accounts show. Soon after his appointment, he authorised Mr. Ruscoe to deduct from the fees payable into the Exchequer small sums to defray expenses of the office which Mr. Edmunds was bound himself to discharge. In 1844 he allowed Mr. Ruscoe to deduct from the public money a salary of £130 for himself. Of the misappropriation of the discount for stamps it is unnecessary to repeat the history, nor of the unjustifiable deduction of 12s. 10d. for every skin of parchment used. For several years Mr. Edmunds took upon himself unlawfully to charge £100 for Mr. Ruscoe's receipt of those fees which belonged to the Clerk of the Hanaper, the real object being to give Mr. Ruscoe remuneration for his services out of somebody else's pocket than that of Mr. Edmunds, which ought to have borne it. Nor did Mr. Ruscoe fail to follow the example set him. Year by year he continued to keep back from the amount of fees to be paid into the Patent Office banking account sums of money varying in amount, apparently at his own discretion. When the fees for a year amounted to a large sum the sum abstracted was pro-

tionally large, and when the amount of fees to be paid was small the sum abstracted was small also. The largest sum abstracted in this way by Mr. Ruscoe was £64, taken in the year 1858; and it is curious to observe that in 1862, the year in which Mr. Greenwood made an inquiry into the defalcations of a clerk in the Patent Office, as already mentioned, the abstractions by Mr. Ruscoe from the fees payable to the Exchequer entirely ceased. The manner in which these sums were kept back by Mr. Ruscoe was, to say the least, very disgraceful. Instead of entering the deduction in the books so that the sums deducted would be apparent, the entries of fees or the castings up were falsified in the fee-books or in the Patent Office account; and occasionally accurate entries made in the first instance were afterwards erased in order to insert false ones in lieu of them. The misconduct of Mr. Ruscoe was clearly made out in his presence from an inspection of the books, and he admitted the facts. The abstraction of money in this way, before he became a salaried officer of the Commissioners of Patents, would not have been so surprising, considering the wretched remuneration he had for the performance of his duty; and Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Hindmarch are strongly inclined to think that all the abstractions were effected with the connivance, if not with the authority, of Mr. Edmunds. But after the time when Mr. Ruscoe became, in October, 1862, an officer of the Commissioners of Patents, receiving a salary of £400 a year, the abstraction of money in the way just described was without palliation, for he admits that he was aware of the provisions of the statutes in pursuance of which the fees were to be paid into the Exchequer and into the Fee Fund of the Court of Chancery, and that he knew that Mr. Edmunds could not authorise him to take the money. Mr. Ruscoe, however contends that Mr. Edmunds was master of the office and had the actual control of the money passing through the old Patent Office, and that he, Mr. Ruscoe, was not responsible for anything done by him in pursuance of Mr. Edmunds's directions.

The result is as follows:—Mr. Edmunds paid into the Exchequer, in September last, the sum of £7872, as the balance due from him for fees that ought to have been paid in long before. But that sum is found by Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Hindmarch to be £892 short of the true balance; and it should be added the £3093, the amount of the sums of 12s. 10d. unlawfully deducted from the balance of fees still payable to the Exchequer by Mr. Edmunds amounting to £3925. To this £11,860, the sum of £5132 unlawfully kept back on the purchase of stamps, and £560 for defence in the payments to the Suitsors' Fee Fund of fees he received on account of it. The four sums amount together to £9617, which has been withheld by him for years, and, if treated as a debt, ought to be augmented by compound interest,

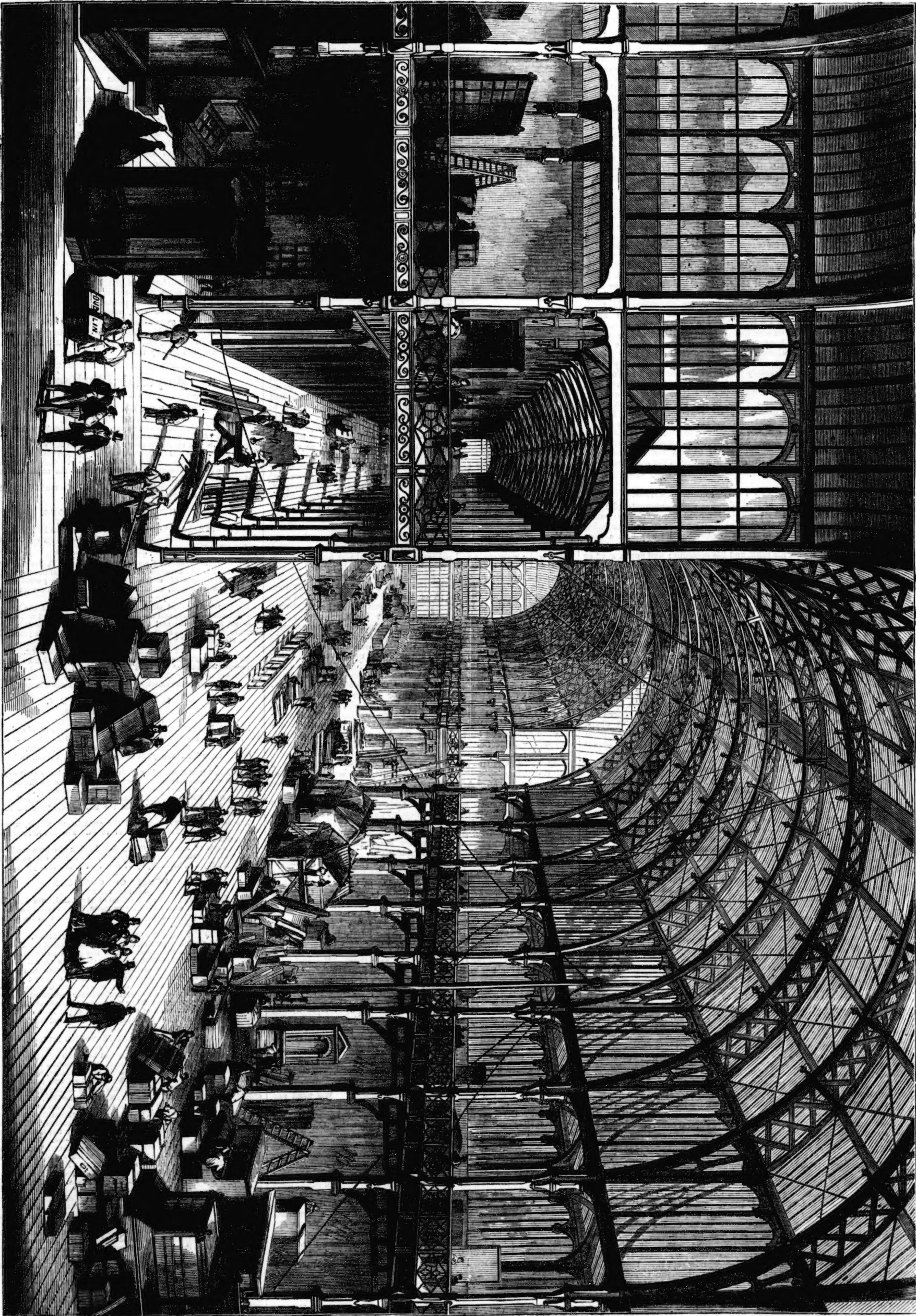
In a recent Number we gave an Illustration, accompanied with some description, of the works now being carried on in Smithfield in connection with the extension of the Metropolitan Railway. Our Engraving on that occasion represented the appearance of Smithfield, looking towards Long-lane, in which direction the line is to proceed towards Aldersgate-street, where the great Finsbury terminus will be erected. Our Illustration this week will convey to our readers some idea of the scene now to be witnessed from Snow-hill looking across towards Ludgate-hill, and the area skirting Farringdon-street, where part of the wall and gateway of the old Fleet Prison still remains, but will doubtless soon be destroyed, as the prison itself was, happily, destroyed long ago. Although these works do not, strictly speaking, belong to the Metropolitan Railway, they are intimately connected with it, as, indeed, many of the present railway extensions are likely to be; for the Metropolitan has undertaken to provide between its King's Cross and its City terminus accommodation for the traffic of the Great Western, the Midland, the Great Northern, the London and South-Western, and the London, Chatham, and Dover lines.

One of the scenes which are now going on in various parts of London may be witnessed any day at the spot represented in our Engraving, where the connection with the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway from Ludgate-hill is being hurried forward in accordance with the promise that it should be completed by the 1st of June. The junction which will be made at West-street includes an immense amount of work between that point and Ludgate-hill. Skinner-street has been crossed, and thence the ground has been cleared to King-street and for some distance northward.

Hundreds of navies are busy, working vigorously at the excavation, and scores of carts are carrying away the soil, the nearest available place at which to shoot it being Camberwell, where the widening of the Chatham and Dover line is being carried on, the Thames embankment being closed during the busy part of the day against the long lines of carts which till lately impeded the traffic of Fleet-street and the Strand. Just on the north side of Skinner-street the line of the Chatham and Dover Railway throws off a short eastern branch, which passes into Smithfield under the proposed dead-meat market, and, joining the Metropolitan eastern extension, will obtain access to Finsbury, the main line passing on to West-street, and there joining the Metropolitan, and thus obtaining access to King's-cross and Paddington, and the northern and western districts of England. On the east side of the present Metropolitan, and at a few yards distance from the Farringdon, station the extension to Finsbury commences, passing in its way along the back of Cow-cross-street, and obliterating in its course all trace of the boneboilers, tripedressers, knackers' yards, and other unsavoury businesses which once flourished in that locality. There is now, in place of some of the close courts and alleys, an open cutting wide enough for four sets of rails, and with solid brick-built retaining walls on each side. A station, some 300 ft. in length, is in course of erection at the spot where the southern line effects its junction with the Metropolitan, and the present station will in future be the goods station of the Great Western. The roof will be removed to Finsbury, there to cover a temporary station, until the extent of accommodation required by the various companies has been decided on. It is at West-street that the most difficult part of the whole work is being carried on. The Chatham and Dover must at some one point cross the Metropolitan in order to reach the Great Northern, and vice versa, and the question has been how to effect this crossing. It was not possible, in so short a distance as that between the point of junction at West-street and the commencement of the tunnel, to rise, and afterwards fall to the level of the rails; it was not to be thought of to make the lines cross on a level; and so it only remained to adopt the plan of dipping below the present roadway of the Metropolitan. From the first yard that it commences from the Charles-street station the additional line begins its descent, burrowing lower as it goes. It passes under the heavy bridge at Ray-street, where the piers and buttresses have had to be secured by underpinning to a depth of 16 ft. below the foundation, while the bridge at Vine-street is also underpinned, but to a less depth. The entire extent of the great retaining wall, beside which the Fleet-sewer runs, has been treated in a similar manner; and all this difficult work has been carried on with trains passing on the line every three or four minutes of the day, a temporary handrail having been placed along the particular part of the wall or bridge which is under this treatment from time to time, in order to prevent the labourers from incautiously stepping on the line in the way of the trains. Only about a yard in length of this tedious work can be effected at a time. A hole about a yard square is dug out in front of the retaining walls, most carefully secured by stays of timber. In this dark cavity two men, who have only just room to work, carefully excavate the earth from below the concrete foundations to a depth of nearly 20 ft., and there hew out a space from 9 ft. to 10 ft. in extent until the extreme limits of the foundations and the wall are reached. The immense superincumbent weight is supported by a mass of timber while, by a slow and gradual process, a new foundation of brick set in cement is built up below the concrete bed of the wall. When the new line has reached a depth of 20 ft. in its downward course it passes diagonally under the present roadway, and reaches the east side of the line within a few yards of the southern mouth of the tunnel. Hitherto it has been only bridges and walls that have been provided with new and deeper foundations, but now the tunnel itself has to be underpinned; and close by its side, but 20 ft. below its foundations, there is to be built up a second tunnel: so that, when all is completed, the traveller will see on the eastern side of the tunnel mouth another tunnel, the roof of which will be 15 ft. lower, and into which the trains of the Midland, Great Northern, London and South-Western, and Chatham and Dover will pass on emerging from beneath the Metropolitan line of rails.



THE RAILWAY WORKS ON SNOWHILL.



INTERIOR OF THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION BUILDING PREVIOUS TO THE OPENING.—SEE PAGE 290.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 258.

MR. BAINES AND HIS BILL.

THANKS to Mr. Edward Baines for one thing, if for nothing else. He has collected 500 members together, has got up an excitement in this generally dull and eventless Session, and has—many thanks to him—specially for that same!—given us something to write about. We knew that there would be a crowd of members down on Wednesday in last week. Vigorous whipping had been going on. "Come down and support my Reform Bill!" earnestly implored Mr. Baines, vocally and by letter; "Come down and crush this revolutionary measure!" with equal urgency said the circular of Colonel Taylor; and both sides we knew would promptly obey the summons. The Liberals, having the fear of jealous voters in front of the hustings before their eyes, would be sure to put in an appearance. This was the last fight of the Parliament, and it would never do for them to be absent. The Conservatives, too, are looking forward to the great day when they must render an account of their stewardship, and they also must show their zeal for the cause which they represent. In short, this was to be the last struggle for the Session between the two old-world principles, principles as ancient as the hills—to wit, Conservatism and Progression; and it was certain that on both sides the forces would muster in great strength. The house, though, was but thinly attended when the debate opened; did not fill, indeed, until about three o'clock. Members came down in considerable numbers, but they only came to pair till four o'clock, or half past, and then rushed away to their Committees up stairs, back to their offices in the City, or to their clubs, or to Tattersalls, or anywhere, rather than sit wearily listening to dull Mr. Baines and his tiresome statistics. Indeed, why should they stay here? Had they not already made up their minds long before? They had. All, to a man; and the greatest orator that ever wagged tongue, in the house or elsewhere, could not have gained a single vote. Nor were the men who stopped by any means rapt in attention. In truth, Mr. Baines is not a ravishing speaker, as we have before had occasion to say. He is industrious in collecting his materials—no man more so. He can also handle them skilfully; and, moreover, he is unquestionably honest and sincere—probably one of the honestest men in the House of Commons—and all honour to him therefore! For honesty, readers, is not so common a quality in the House of Commons as possibly you at a distance may imagine. On this question of reform we, who know the House well, have long decided honesty is rather uncommon; and if there be any quantity of it, it is to be found, we suspect, in the shape of honest hatred rather than in honest love. But Mr. Baines is certainly honest: "faithful among the faithless found," he really believes in reform, and therefore—albeit he is not an attractive speaker—cannot wake up our enthusiasm, indeed, can hardly command our attention (though, by-the-way, it perhaps would be well for us if he could, for there is a good deal of instructive matter in his speeches if we would but listen to them)—yet all honour, we say again, to Mr. Baines!

LORD ELCHO AND THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.

Lord Elcho, eldest son of Earl Wemyss, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers, moved the previous question and in a long speech showed the reason why. Dod tells us—or rather the noble Lord tells us in Dod's book—that he was first a Conservative, then a Liberal Conservative, and is now a Liberal. So much for Lord Elcho, his rank, and his opinions; and now a word or two about "the previous question," which his Lordship moved. The previous question is this:—Mr. Baines moved that his bill be read a second time; Lord Elcho moves, by way of amendment, that this question be not put. He does not meet Mr. Baines's motion with a direct negative, nor does he move that the bill be read a second time this day six months, which is a equivalent to a direct negative, but he moves that the House shall not vote upon Mr. Baines's motion at all, as if he should say, "I can't vote for Baines's motion; I don't like to vote flatly against it; I prefer not to vote at all; and therefore I move that the motion be not put. It is an inconvenient motion, or the time is not right. Some future day will be better." This would appear to be the thought expressed in Lord Elcho's amendment. But it is remarkable—that is, worthy of remark—that though, by his amendment, the noble Lord merely expressed a wish that the motion of Mr. Baines should not be put, the whole of his speech was entirely directed against the purpose of that motion; in short, though he expressed a wish that the question of reform be postponed, he argued all through his speech against reform, and herein was certainly inconsistent.

HOW A LORD SPEAKS.

Now a word or two about the noble Lord's manner of speaking, which is somewhat singular. The noble Lord was on this occasion exceptionally lively, we thought; usually, his Lordship is not a lively speaker, but, on the contrary, lengthy, dull, and somniferous. His language is correct—unexceptionally correct; his sentences are perfectly formed, and his speeches, in short, when you come to read them, are in style excellent. It is not his Lordship's fault if he is not an attractive speaker—that is to say, it is not owing to carelessness. Possibly he may be too careful; we venture to think that this is so. If he were not to prepare beforehand with so much anxiety and care the dress for his thoughts, but allow them to dress themselves, they would come before us in more appropriate and attractive garb. Men overdressed we call dandies; and there is something of the dandiacal character in his Lordship's speeches; and "dandiacal bodies," whether they be men or speeches, are always insipid, if nothing worse. But our readers shall judge whether our opinion be correct. First, then, the noble Lord's speeches come to us in soft, low, mellifluous tones. Secondly, they march with slow and measured step. Thirdly, he so carefully modulates his voice that it never rises above nor sinks below a prescribed pitch. Fourthly, he avoids all show of passion or even feeling, and keeps all that down, as if anything like a show of feeling were vulgar in a Lord; and, lastly, appropriate to all this, his action, both of body and arms, is slow, gentle—wavy, we might say—and all evidently regulated according to model. This is his Lordship's style of speaking, and it is not an impressive style, but rather repressive—sominiferous, in short, tending to lull the mind into sleepy indifference, if not into actual sleep. Nor is there anything in the matter of the speeches to excite attention. There is no strength, no pith, but merely a string of harmless platitudes, or a softly-flowing current of weak reasoning, small thoughts, and thin fallacies, as you would expect; for, if the matter were stronger, the style would be naturally more vigorous. But, as we have said, on this occasion his Lordship was unusually lively, and, at times, actually made the House laugh, and even provoked opposition. But we must leave his Lordship, as we have several other and weightier speeches to notice.

ROBERT LOWE.

Notably that of the Right Honourable Robert Lowe, representative of Calne, or, rather, of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who is Lord paramount at Calne, and returns whom he pleases. There has been no contest at Calne since the passing of the Reform Bill, and long before, unless you consider that the last election in 1859 was contested, when Mr. Lowe polled 103 votes and his opponent thirty-five. Mr. Lowe's speech was a stunner, and was by far the most important speech which has been made during the debate. Everybody knew that Mr. Lowe was no Radical, but no one expected such a Conservative speech as this. It is said of some people prone to blunders that they are more Irish than Irishmen; and of Mr. Lowe it may be now said that, though professedly Liberal, he is more Conservative than the Conservatives. The gentlemen opposite were enraptured with this speech of Mr. Lowe. They could hardly contain themselves. They did not, indeed, contain themselves, but ever and anon as the right hon. gentleman slipped out, in that easy manner of his, one after another, the old Tory doctrines, backed by the old Tory arguments, and plentifully peppered with pungent sarcasm against

reform, and democracy, and all that, the Conservative gentlemen burst forth into ecstatic cheering; and when he finished with this memorable prophecy, "If they (the Liberals) fail to carry this bill, they will ruin their party; if they succeed, they will ruin their country," Conservative enthusiasm knew no bounds. And there was cause; for this desertion of Mr. Lowe from the ranks of the Reformers is a great event for the Conservatives. Horsman was a gain to them, but Lowe is a far greater; indeed, on the Conservative side of the house, there is no debater who, for knowledge, ruthless, raking logic, power of sarcasm, and general ability, is comparable to Mr. Lowe.

HIS SPEAKING.

The contrast between the speech of Lord Elcho and that of Mr. Lowe was wonderful. Lord Elcho's eloquence is like a drowsy rippling summer stream. Mr. Lowe's is like a swift rolling turbulent mountain torrent. But Mr. Lowe is not a great orator; nor an orator at all in the right sense of that word. Indeed, as we have more than once remarked, true orators are very scarce in these days; perhaps there is hardly a speaker living, certainly not more than one or two speakers, who come up to the mark of genuine orators of the old type; and Mr. Lowe is certainly not one of them. His manner lacks some of the most important elements of oratory; and as to manner, or what we call action, he has none. His matter is argumentative. Now and then there comes out something like an apophthegm; and ever and anon he slips through his half-opened lips a contemptuous sneer, or a biting sarcasm, dropping it upon his opponent as you might drop oil of vitriol out of a bottle; but logic is his forte. His manner is entirely negative. He stands bolt upright, like a statue. He never moves an arm, scarcely a muscle, except to lift a paper close to his nose and to pass his glass between his eye and said paper. He smiles, at times, a grim smile when he sees that his opponent is fairly hit, or, as we might more properly say, bitten; but, somehow, the smile seems to come without motion of the muscles of his face. In short, he uses no action to emphasize his thoughts, but relies upon their natural force to produce effect. Mr. Lowe's speech has been pronounced a very clever speech, an able speech, and, by some, a great speech. Well, it was clever, no doubt, very clever; but was there anything new in it? Was it original? We venture to think not. To us it was a clever compilation from old speeches delivered thirty years ago, and adapted, ingeniously enough, to modern circumstances and events. Yes, reader, all was old—all borrowed. There was not a new thought nor a new argument throughout the entire harangue, as we could easily prove if it were worth while. Indeed, as we listened, we could almost fancy that Time had reversed his wheels, and that we were in the old house, listening to John Wilson Croker, Sir Charles Wetherell, and the other old Tories who argued and prophesied against reform thirty years ago. It is said that history never repeats itself; but this is a mistake. History repeated itself that Wednesday morning, and so exactly were the circumstances then like those of 1851-2, that if Croker and Wetherell could have come back they would have felt themselves quite at home, and would have cheered that speech of Lowe just as the Tory country gentlemen used to cheer theirs. We suspect, though, that Croker, who was rather a cross-grained being, would have turned round upon the member for Calne and indignantly charged him with theft.

A TUMULT.

Now came a row. Row? It was a raging tempest; such as we have seldom seen at night or in the small hours of the morning, when white waistcoats and red faces flash and glitter under the gas-light, and never before at a morning sitting. It happened in this wise. No member of the Government had spoken, and when Mr. Lowe sat down, Mr. Moncreiff, the Lord advocate, rose, but with him rose Mr. Bernal Osborne; and, though Mr. Speaker called upon the Minister of the Crown, the House determined to have Osborne, as anyone who knows the House might be sure they would. "Moncreiff, indeed! that solid, pompous, argumentative Scotchman, when Osborne is on his legs; not if we know it, Mr. Speaker." And straightway, from hundreds of throats, there came, in every imaginable tone, from the hoarsest bass up to the shrillest note in alt. cries of "Osborne! Osborne! Osborne!" One indignant young Conservative putting his hand to his mouth, and shrieking, amid the wildest laughter, Osbo-o-o-o-rne. By-the-way, the cause of the enthusiasm for Osborne was this—the honourable member for Liskeard has but just shown for the first time this Session. He, rumour says, has been rusticated in Ireland—managing his farm there, like another Cincinnatus, reluctant to leave his calm retreat and his plough for the distracting affairs of State. And this was his first appearance upon the boards this season—his debut; and, after so long an absence of this favourite primo buffo, was it likely that the audience would allow a dull Scotchman to stand in his way? By no means. And so down, down, my Lord Advocate; your "still hock" will keep; but the sparkling champagne of our friend here is all on the fix, just in its prime, and, in short, more to our taste—and that wine we will have, or none. Generally, when a member gets named he ultimately, however opposed the House may be to him, succeeds in getting heard. And my Lord Advocate evidently thought that he, too, should, by patient perseverance, weary his opponents out; but he was mistaken; his opponents wearied him out. Three or four times he essayed to speak, but every time there came such a blast of indignant cries that at last the learned lord dropped despairingly into his seat; and, greeted by a burst of cheers, Osborne rose. And then what happened? Well, if the truth must be told, the liquor which we thought to be Moët's champagne turned out to be mere small beer—stale, flat, weak, and tasteless. And within five minutes from the time when Osborne got on his legs his voice was well-nigh lost in a buzz of talk, and most of his noisy friends at the bar had disappeared. Like children, finding the toy which they had been howling for not to their mind, they threw it away. It was no fault, though, of Mr. Osborne that he did not please them. He tried hard enough to do it, but could not. He pumped for inspiration, but it would not come. Here ended the first day's performance. It was talked out. Whilst sundry members were pantomiming in dumb show—the storm roaring the while as furious as ever about the day when the debate should come on again—Old Father Time, regardless of them all, was slowly travelling on, and, having arrived at 5.45, up rose Mr. Speaker, pointed to the clock, declared that the debate was adjourned; and then, with a parting roar of laughter, out rushed the members, and in a few minutes more Mr. Speaker was gone too; the doors were closed, and the house, which but just before had been filled with this noisy, gabbling crowd, was empty.

SECOND ACT OF THE DRAMA.

And now for the second act of this drama. We need say but little about the long, dull, inconsequential harangue with which Mr. Gregory opened the performance. Lowe's oratory is all matter and no manner. The member for Galway's is all manner—grandiose manner—and no, or but little, matter. Like some high stepping-horses which we have seen, he has imposing action, but makes little progress; and so no more of the member for Galway. And what can be said of Sir George Grey's speech, but that it was weak? Mr. Edward Forster rose just in time to address a waning house, for the dinner-hour had come; and not an angel from heaven could hold the House together when the hand of the clock is nearing eight. Nevertheless, Mr. Forster did right to rise. What matter if the audience here be slipping away? there is an audience elsewhere. This is one of the curious privileges of a member in Mr. Forster's position. His vigorous, winged words—thanks to the press, which lends them wings—fly away, before the sun has gone its round, to the ends of the land. Mr. Forster's speech was one of the best in the debate. It was plain, outspoken, inspired apparently by a little whiff of anger—anger against deserters, traitors, and half-hearted friends—and by not a little earnestness and sincerity.

PHILOSOPHY.

Mr. Stansfeld arose immediately after dinner—somewhat too soon after dinner. It is not pleasant to speak when members are slipping away, and but little more so when they are coming back. Moreover, if hungry members are impatient, so are members who

have just dined and wine, unless your oratory be of a very stimulating character. Mr. Stansfeld's oratory is not specially of this sort. It is calm, thoughtful, argumentative, with a touch of philosophy in it. Mr. Stansfeld never spoke better than he did on Monday night; but he was not listened to patiently by the Conservative gentlemen. They did not vigorously, as if by agreement, attempt to clamour him down; but there ran through their ranks, especially on the left flank below the gangway, low, lazy murmurings of "Vide, vide!" "Oh, oh!" uttered in lazy tones, as if the murmurers were in a state of repletion, half asleep and half awake. To men in this post-prandial state Mr. Stansfeld's speech was neither one thing nor the other. It called upon them to think, which they were in no state to do, but it did not rouse them into excitement. Mr. Stansfeld's voice, however, clear and strong, rose above all these mutterings; and he was loudly cheered by his own side, if he could not gain the attention of his somnolent opponents.

ROWDYISM.

But now Stansfeld is down and Horsman is up, and mark the difference. The somnolent loungers arouse themselves, the lazy mutterings give place to loud cheers. Every man prepares to listen, *astant arrectis auribus*. And why? Would Horsman's speech be comparable as a really effective argumentative speech to Stansfeld's? Not a bit of it. No more than the delicate Johannisberg—which it may be that these gentlemen had imbibed—is comparable to the grogs with which they will finish the night. But then the Horsman oratory was more suitable to their taste just then. They wanted a stimulant, and they knew that they should get it from Horsman. And they had it: had an hour and a half of it. A good hour and a half of real effective rowdy oratory; and how they enjoyed it! At times they were beside themselves with delight. They cheered every blow which was delivered (and certainly Mr. Horsman did pitch into his opponents some very effective facers) as if they had been at a prize-fight. By-the-way, Horsman does seem to us to be more of a pugilist than a debater. He always appears to be more anxious to punish than to convince his opponents. Well, this, as we have said, went on for an hour and a half, and the Conservative gentlemen got so excited and so exhausted that when Disraeli spoke they had not a cheer to give him, but listened to him in cold silence, only pumping up a little faint applause when he sat down, and hardly that.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of DERBY directed attention to a mistake which had crept into the report of the Edmunds Committee, presented to their Lordships on Tuesday. It was therein stated that, on a division upon a particular question, a minority of the Committee were of opinion that the Lord Chancellor had improper motives for acting as he had done. This was not the case, the Committee being unanimously of opinion that the noble and learned Lord had only committed an error of judgment.

The Common Law Courts (Fees Bill), the Inclosure Bill, and the Fisheries (Scotland) Bill were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

Mr. COWPER stated, in reply to Lord Stanley, that he intended to produce, during the present Session, an estimate for enlarging the National Gallery on the north side.

THE ZOLLVEREIN.

Mr. LAYARD, answering an inquiry of Mr. W. E. Forster, said that the commercial treaty between France and Prussia and the German Zollverein, in the advantages of which this country would participate under the favoured nation clause, would come into operation on the 1st of July next.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, ETC.

Mr. GREGORY called attention to the condition of the British Museum, the National Gallery, and the Kensington Museum, and was followed by Mr. Cowper, Mr. Walpole, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who severally explained their views as to the means of overcoming the present difficulty want of space for the national collections.

THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION PROGRAMME.

Mr. HENNESSY rose to postpone a resolution of which he had given notice expressing regret that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland had approved of a programme of music for the opening of the Dublin Exhibition from which all Irish music had been excluded, when the House was counted out.

MONDAY, MAY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS.

Lord ST. LEONARDS called attention to the subject of strikes and lock-outs, and laid upon the table a bill for establishing councils of arbitration.

THE PROPOSED NEW COURTS OF LAW.

On the order for reading the Courts of Justice Concentration Bill a third time,

Lord REDESDALE moved as an amendment a clause to the effect that no money should be expended on the purchase of a site for the new courts until full plans and estimates had been laid before Parliament.

The LORD CHANCELLOR opposed the amendment, and said that, if carried, it would virtually defeat the bill by delaying its execution for another year.

The Earl of DERBY supported the amendment, which, upon a division, was carried against Ministers by 47 to 44. The bill so amended was then read a third time and passed.

The Courts of Justice Building Bill having also been read a third time, Lord ST. LEONARDS moved the omission of the 22nd clause, and the motion was agreed to, on a division, by 47 to 46. The bill then passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN FINANCE.

Sir C. WOOD, replying to a question of Mr. Caird, said that, having consulted the members of the Council of India, he had arrived at the conclusion not to allow the proposed imposition of export duties on the more important staples of that country.

FORGING SIGNATURES TO PETITIONS.

Mr. C. FORSTER brought under the consideration of the House the report of the Committee on the signatures to the petitions recently presented in favour of the claims of Azem Jah, Nawab of the Carnatic. Detailing at some length the facts as ascertained by the Committee, the hon. member urged the necessity of the House vindicating its dignity; and, with a view to meet the requirements of the case, moved that George Morris Mitchell, having fabricated signatures to several petitions presented to the House, and having knowingly procured other fabricated signatures to such petitions, had been guilty of a breach of the privileges of the House.

After some opposition to the motion, it was agreed that the debate should be adjourned until next day.

THE BOROUGH FRANCHISE BILL.

The debate on the Borough Franchise Bill was resumed by Mr. GREGORY, who said it seemed to him that what had been said about the horse—namely, that it was a most respectable animal, but, somehow or other, was always managed by rogues—might, with a slight alteration, be applied to reform. Insincerity seemed to be the characteristic of all who meddled with it. He did not believe the feeling of the House was in favour of the bill. Indeed, he should like to see a ballot of the House on the question, and he believed that from the Liberal side there would be a great revulsion of feeling in favour of staying the bill for ten years, and he further believed that such a vote would be received with great complacency by the country. The Conservative reaction arose from a fear of organic changes in the Constitution, and Mr. Lowe had shown that this bill would lead to one. He was of the same opinion. If that bill were passed it would lead directly to universal suffrage. He should have no objection to a measure which would admit the best of the working class, but this bill did no such thing. He denied that by extending the suffrage they would have better government as regarded peace or commerce, and adduced America and Australia as affording proofs of his proposition.

Sir G. GREY said he had been prepared on Wednesday to state the course the Government would take in respect to the bill, but, as he saw the debate would be adjourned, he had not intervened before other speakers. He charged Lord Elcho with not opposing the bill in a straightforward manner, and said his arguments and those of Mr. Lowe meant that no reform of any kind was needed. He then proceeded to defend the Government from charges of breach of faith in respect to reform. They had only abandoned their bill in 1860 when it became evident they could not carry it, and no further bill had been introduced because it was clear the feeling of the House was against it. The Government had not, however, opposed the introduction of bills by private members, and had not been ready to indorse the principle that there should be an extension of the franchise. But the House had not approved of the bill. Against this bill the arguments urged by Mr. Lowe and others were exactly the same as those urged against the bill of 1832. It was said the measure would lead to a pure democracy. The Government did not believe it would have any such result, but that the working classes really ought to have an extension of the suffrage. With that view they would vote for the second reading. He wished it to be dis-

tinctly understood, however, that if it was intended that the bill for a £6 franchise was to be taken as a political test at the elections which were not far distant, the Government would object to it and say they were not bound to a £6 franchise, though, in connection with other changes, they proposed it in 1860. They wished to affirm that the franchise ought to be lowered, but they declined to be bound to a £6 franchise. They would not be bound to a large measure of Parliamentary reform; but they reserved discretion to act as the interests of the country might dictate. They would not shrink from the appeal to the country.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER denied the House, after hearing the last speech, to say what the policy of the Government would be. He was glad the question was raised, because it would enable them to see whether the Government intended to be a reforming Government. That was essential in the coming election. The Government had never been released from its pledges, and he believed that in the next Parliament members for great constituencies would come back pledged to be dalled with no longer, but to insist on reform. In the absence of Mr. Bright, he had been charged with seeking to set class against class, but there had been no such effort in that direction as the insidious attempt on the part of those who opposed reform to set the middle class against the working class. He believed that, if reform were not granted soon, the working men would not ask for it so quietly as they did at present. They had confidence in the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but none in the Executive of the Government, and the speech of Sir George Grey would not give them confidence. For his own part, he believed a still further extension of the franchise than that proposed in the bill would be necessary, and he urged the House not to seek to withhold from the working men their rights.

Mr. LIDDELL opposed the bill, which was supported by Sir F. Goldsmid and Mr. Buxton. Mr. STANSFELD supported the bill, discussed the charges of insincerity which had been made against the Radical members, and denied there was any truth in them. He contended that the objections urged against the bill were without foundation, and that the effect of lowering the franchise would be to improve the government of the country. He argued that the manner proposed by the bill would be the most effectual way of improving the representation, and asked the House to show itself in earnest, and to accept this measure as the best means of satisfying the working classes.

Mr. HORSMAN, in the course of a long and characteristic speech, opposed the bill, which, he contended, would have the effect of swamping the constituencies. Mr. DISRAELI described the debate as the epilogue of the Parliament. He objected to the bill on the ground that a comprehensive measure was the only satisfactory way of dealing with the question. He defended Lord Derby's Government for the course it took in bringing in a bill, and said the event had justified the manner in which they (the Opposition) had met the reform bill of the present Government. To have negatived their bill on a second reading would have been to do that which would have satisfied the Government, whereas by the course taken they were paralysed. He urged that this bill should be rejected by a large majority.

On a division the bill was thrown out by 288 votes to 214.

TUESDAY, MAY 3. HOUSE OF LORDS. THE EDMUNDS CASE.

Lord REDESDALE moved a series of resolutions in reference to a clause in the report of the Edmunds Committee, expressing regret that the Edmunds Pension Committee had not acted upon their general knowledge of the circumstances under which Mr. Edmunds was retiring, and reported against the pension. The resolutions moved by the noble Lord vindicated the Pension Committee. He declared that at the time the report was presented he did not know there were any circumstances which ought to prevent Mr. Edmunds receiving a pension. He therefore thought no blame ought to have been cast on the Committee.

Earl GRANVILLE declared that the Committee whose report was now complained of had entered upon their duties with the sole desire of inquiring into the truth and stating it plainly to the House. With that object they were compelled to inquire into what had been done by the Pension Committee; and they came to no harsh conclusion, nor did they speak of the Committee in any other terms than those they had employed in reference to the Lord Chancellor. They had simply come to the conclusion that there had been an error of judgment. He objected to the resolutions now proposed.

The Earl of DERBY justified the report of the Lord Chancellor without a word being said of the circumstances which were known, not only to the noble Lord but to his colleagues. He would not say Mr. Edmunds's resignation had been extorted, but he had been told it if it was not sent in by a certain day all the facts would be reported. It was sent in, and the Lord Chancellor presented the petition without saying a word of what he knew. He could not help, therefore, regretting that the paragraph in the original draught of the report had been rejected. It had not been intended to pass censure on the Pension Committee, and therefore he hoped the resolutions would not be pressed.

Earl RUSSELL said the opinion of the Cabinet had been that if Mr. Edmunds should appear at the table all the facts should be stated, but the question of a pension was never before them. If it had he had no doubt they would have decided that all the circumstances should be stated to the House. He justified the report of the Committee on the matter.

The resolutions were ultimately negatived.

Earl GRANVILLE then moved that the resolution granting a pension of £800 a year to Mr. Edmunds should be rescinded, which was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. CONSTANCE KENT.

Sir G. GREY stated, in reply to Mr. Whalley, that the Government did not intend bringing in any bill to prevent such persons as the Rev. A. D. Wagner, who, in the recent proceedings against Constance Kent, had pleaded the "real of confession" as a reason for declining to give certain evidence, from officiating as clergymen of the Established Church and receiving the emoluments thereof.

Mr. WHALLEY then gave notice that on an early day he should call attention to the subject.

THE AZEEM JAH PETITIONS.

On the suggestion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the House agreed to refer back to a Special Committee the consideration of the charge against George Morris Mitchell of having forged signatures to the petitions in favour of the case of Azeem Jah, with the view of affording Mr. Mitchell an opportunity of proving his innocence.

COMMUNICATION WITH RAILWAY GUARDS.

Sir W. GALLWEY moved, as a declaratory resolution, "That the safety of the public required that, pending the report of the Royal Commission, some immediate provision should be made for compelling railway companies to make arrangements for establishing a proper communication between guards and passengers."

Mr. GIBSON assured the House that the Board of Trade had not been indifferent to the subject, they having in the month of July last addressed a communication to every railway company in the kingdom urging upon them the necessity of adopting some means of communication between passengers and guards. The companies had shown no indisposition to give effect to the recommendation of the board, and had bound themselves in certain circumstances to adopt a system by which passengers might be enabled to communicate with the guard.

Sir W. GALLWEY, having remarked that at that moment the House consisted solely of railway directors, consented to withdraw his motion.

INSPECTION OF MINES.

On the motion of Mr. AYNTON, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the operation of the Acts regulating the inspection of mines and the allegations contained in the petitions presented on the subject.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10. HOUSE OF COMMONS. CHURCH RATES.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved the second reading of the Church Rates Commutation Bill. The measure proposed the substitution of a charge of 2d. in the pound on real property in lieu of church rates. The assessment was not to extend to property except such as had been assessed to church rates within the last seven years, nor to parishes which had manifested their dislike of church rates by three successive rejections of such rates at polls. This would give relief to the whole occupying body, and would exempt those parishes where church rates were refused. He moved the measure as affording a basis of agreement between Churchmen and Dissenters, and hoped it would pass with a view of being referred to a Select Committee.

Sir C. DOUGLAS moved the rejection of the bill.

Sir G. GREY opposed the bill. It was understood that the question should rest for the present. The compromise which was proposed might have been accepted at one time, but now would only be regarded as giving a new sanction to church rates.

After some further discussion, the bill, on a division, was rejected by 126 to 42 votes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The County Voters Registration Bill passed through Committee with several amendments.

Mr. LOCKE was moving the second reading of the Theatres, &c., Bill, when a quarter to six o'clock arrived, and the debate was suspended.

THURSDAY, MAY 11. HOUSE OF LORDS. COUNTY COURTS EQUITABLE JURISDICTION BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the third reading of this bill. The Judges of County Courts, being only Common Law Judges, were scarcely eligible to give judgment in cases of equity. He was sure that if this bill were passed cases would come before the County Court Judges involving points as complicated and abstruse as any that could possibly arise in the Court of

Chancery, and he did not think the County Court Judges were competent to deal with such cases.

The bill was ultimately read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

UNION CHARGEABILITY BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on this bill, Mr. BENTINCK rose to move that it be an instruction to the Committee, with a view to rendering the working of the system of union chargeability more just and equal, to facilitate in certain cases the alteration of the limits of existing unions. He contended that the bill would arrest the flow of private generosity, and in that light he regarded it as most objectionable. But his chief ground of objection to the bill was that it was framed for the benefit of the towns and to the prejudice of the rural districts.

Mr. PACE seconded the motion.

Mr. NEATE considered that the bill was one of justice to the ratepayer and of benefit to the poor. He deprecated any delay in passing it.

Mr. KNIGHT and Mr. SCOURFIELD supported the motion, which, after some debate, was negatived by a majority of 193 to 118.

Mr. THOMPSON moved, as an amendment, that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. FERRAND seconded the amendment.

After a long and dreary discussion, Sir R. KNIGHTLEY moved the adjournment of the debate.

The proposition having been strongly resisted by the Government, a division took place, when the motion for adjournment was negatived by a majority of 174 to 80.

Mr. LYON then moved the adjournment of the House, insinuating as a reason the disorderly interruptions that came from the Ministerial side of the house.

Sir G. GREY warmly repelled the charge, and taunted the members on the other side of the house with resorting to unfair means of opposition.

Mr. DISRAELI indignantly repelled the accusation.

After some exciting recrimination, the motion for the adjournment of the House was negatived without a division.

On the motion of Mr. HENLEY, the debate was then adjourned until Monday.

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THE EDMUNDS SCANDAL.

THE transactions popularly known as the "Edmunds scandal" have been fruitful in painful exposure, and in some cases disgrace, to all connected with them. First, there is Mr. Edmunds himself, who has been reduced from a position of affluence and respectability to one of probable penury and certain shame. For him, however, we have no sympathy, and we feel sure that he will meet with little commiseration. He was guilty of an amount of malversation in the discharge of the duties of his offices in connection with patents which would have consigned him first to the bar of a criminal court and afterwards to a felon's cell, had his employers been any private firm, and not the British public. Mr. Edmunds, therefore, has reason to congratulate himself that no worse consequences have followed from his misconduct than those he is now enduring, and the best that can happen for him is, that he may sink into obscurity, and be no more heard of. Next, there was mixed up with these transactions a name dear to every Englishman, and upon any individual bearing which it is painful to think that even a breath of suspicion could be cast. No one, of course, for a moment believed that Lord Brougham was in the slightest degree or manner implicated in any of Mr. Edmunds's defalcations; and his own affidavit and the report of the Peers' Committee amply clear him of every suspicion. The same, however, cannot be said of other members of his family, whose share in the awkward affair is, to say the least, of a questionable character; and it is deeply to be regretted that the name of Brougham should have been dragged through such a foul slough, even though the honoured head of the house, whose talents and character have made the name illustrious, should be utterly blameless. But the country has at least this consolation, that they are entitled to venerate Henry Brougham still.

It is with greater reluctance, because with greater doubt and pain, that we approach the part which another eminent personage has played in this affair. We are not disposed to join in the party cry which has been raised against Lord Westbury by Conservative journals in the hope of crushing a dangerous antagonist; but we cannot conceal from ourselves that in this business the Lord Chancellor's hands are not altogether clean. It was by Lord Westbury's orders that the investigation into Mr. Edmunds's conduct at the Patent Office was instituted; it was at his instance that Mr. Edmunds was induced to resign his position there; it was in consequence of pressure applied by Lord Westbury—let it be disguised how it may—that Mr. Edmunds abandoned his offices in the House of Lords; it was the Lord Chancellor's duty to make their Lordships acquainted with all the facts in his possession before a pension was granted to Mr. Edmunds; and it was the Bethell family that profited most by Mr. Edmunds's removal. In this last fact lies the sting of the whole affair. Lord Westbury may have only been guilty, as his brother Peers declare, of an "error of judgment;" but it is always an awkward, not to say suspicious, circumstance when errors of judgment conduce to the benefit of the persons committing

them, or to that of their relatives. In this position, we say, Lord Westbury stands; and though he may not have been guilty of positive corruption in his conduct to Mr. Edmunds—nay, in compelling that individual to quit the public service we think he only did his duty—and though he may have been no more flagrant in his nepotism than others who have preceded him in his high office, the country was under the impression that such practices were things of the past, and that public men nowadays were not amenable to the charge of utter selfishness in the dispensing of their patronage, and has been proportionately shocked by the recent disclosures. We in England dislike being made aware of the fact that our popular idols are still partially formed of clay; that the motives which have actuated the occupant of the highest office in the land are open to grave suspicion; that the dignity of that office has been lowered; that the head of the law, the keeper of the Queen's conscience, the custodian of the Great Seal, and a valuable public servant, is a man against whom the finger of scorn has been pointed, who has fallen from his high estate, and whose future usefulness has been seriously impaired, if not totally destroyed.

Little less culpable than the conduct of the Lord Chancellor has been that of the Cabinet generally, of the Pension Committee of the House of Lords, and of the bulk, if not the whole, of the Peers themselves. All knew that something serious was wrong in Mr. Edmunds's conduct, and yet none acted on the knowledge they possessed, nor troubled themselves to call for further information. All concurred in keeping silence, and in voting a handsome pension to a man whom many of them knew to be utterly unworthy of any reward whatever from the public. Now that the blunder has been rectified, however, we care not to inquire too curiously into their Lordships' conduct; but we trust the "Edmunds scandal" will, in Transatlantic phraseology, be a "caution" to both Houses of Parliament as to how they grant pensions and dispose of public money in future.

Another, and not less disagreeable, aspect of the subject is the facility with which, it appears, public officers may defraud the revenue of moneys passing through their hands. There was, it seems, absolutely no check whatever upon the dealings of Mr. Edmunds with the revenue accruing from his branch of the public service; and when such things are done in one department, it is not unreasonable to suspect that they may be done in others also. Popular confidence in public servants is thus shaken, and even the most honourable and conscientious are liable to be distrusted. Mr. Edmunds states that he was nominally under the supervision of the Comptroller-General, Lord Monteagle, to whom he ought to have rendered periodical reports, and into whose hands, or to whose account, he ought to have paid over the moneys he received for the public benefit. And yet neither Lord Monteagle, his subordinates, nor any one connected with the Treasury, ever troubled himself as to whether or not those moneys were accounted for. Surely it was somebody's duty to see that the ledger containing the Patent Office accounts was duly posted up; and yet years passed over without a single entry being made in that ledger or a single question being asked as to why that account was in arrear. This implies grave neglect of duty on some one's part; and we hope that at least this one grain of good will be evolved out of the huge mass of evil disclosed in this Edmunds case—namely, that stringent measures will be taken to prevent the possibility of the recurrence of such malversation and similar scandals.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON IN ALGERIA.

The Emperor arrived at Algiers on the night of Tuesday, the 2nd inst., but the landing was deferred until the morning of Wednesday, the 3rd. Nothing could have been more splendid than the scene witnessed on the occasion. From the Place du Gouvernement all down the boulevards to the sea the sides of the road were decorated with garlands of the sprays of wild asparagus, relieved at intervals by shields bearing alternately the letters "E. N." Two magnificent palm-trees, composed entirely of guns and sabres, glittered in the sunshine, and flags of the tricolor floated in every direction. A grand pavilion, composed of French banners, stood on the landing-place. Six or eight men-of-war escorted his Majesty. A correspondent says that "the only enthusiastic shouts heard were given as he stepped from the boat and entered the pavilion. It is said Napoleon desired as quiet a reception as possible: he certainly had his wish. On he came amid the waving of banners, and, save for the music, in silence. His Majesty seemed in good health, and conversed with Marechal de M'Mahon as he rode along.

The Emperor Napoleon, on the 4th, issued the following proclamation to the inhabitants of Algeria:—

I come among you to learn in person your interests, to second your efforts, and to assure you that the protection of the mother country shall not fail you. You have for a long time past combated with energy two obstacles—a virgin soil and a warlike people; but better days are at hand. On the one side, private companies are about to develop, by their industry and their capital, the fertility of the land; on the other, the Arabs, restrained, and enlightened with regard to our own benevolent intentions, will no longer be able to disturb the tranquillity of the country. Have faith, then, in the future. Become attached to the land which you cultivate as to a new fatherland, and treat the Arabs, in the midst of whom you must dwell, as fellow-countrymen. We must be the masters, because we are the more civilized; we must be generous, because we are the stronger.

Let us, then, justify unceasingly the glorious act of one of my predecessors, who, in planting, thirty-five years ago, on the soil of Africa, the banner of France and the Cross, unfurled at once the sign of civilisation and the symbol of peace and charity.

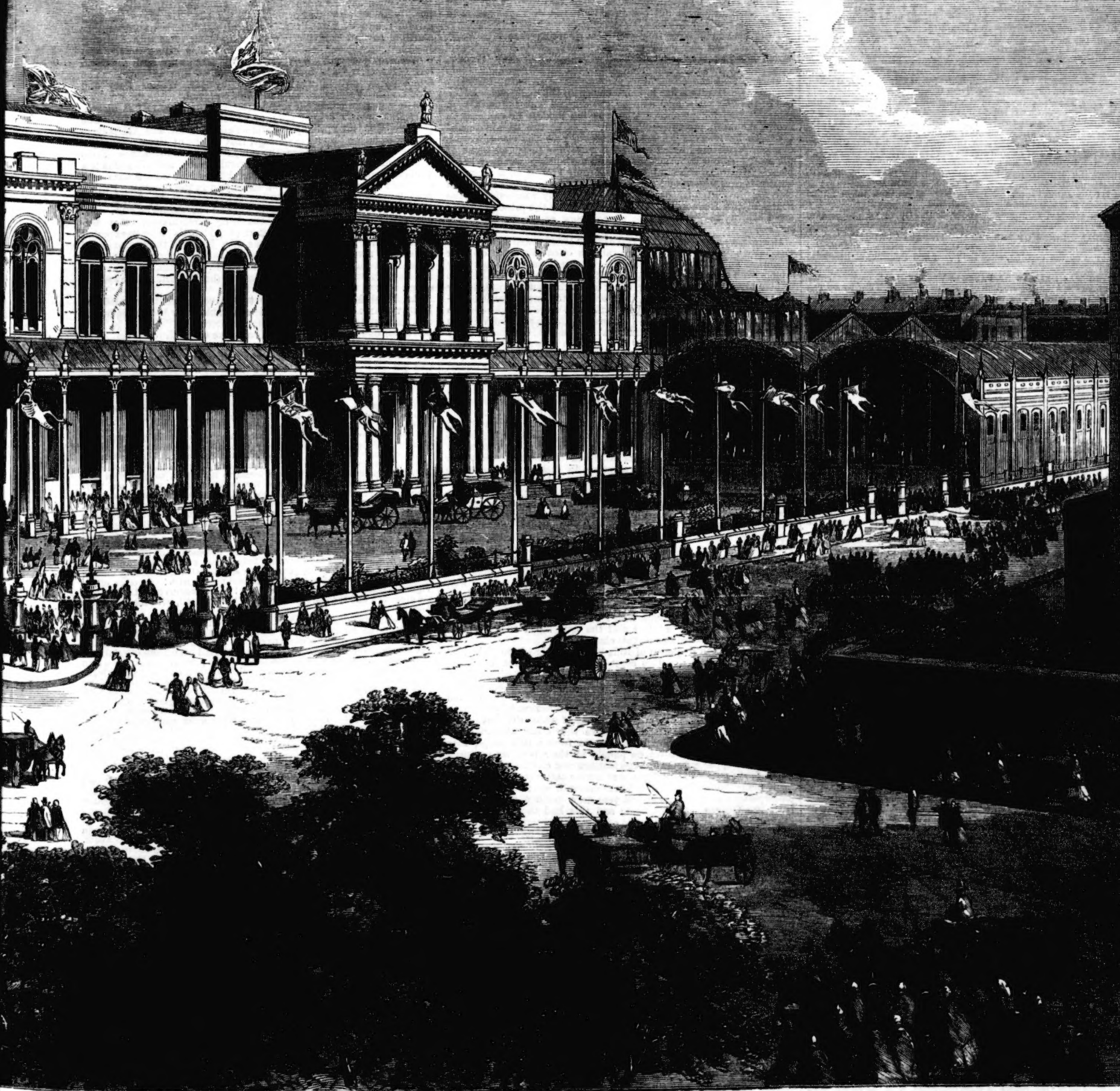
On the 6th the following proclamation, addressed to the Arabs, was issued by his Majesty:—

France came to Algeria in 1839, not to destroy the Arab nationality, but to liberate the people from ages of oppression. Nevertheless, you have fought against your liberators. I honour your sentiment of warlike dignity, but God has decided. Recognize the decrees of Providence. Like yourselves, our ancestors courageously resisted, and yet from their defeat dates their regeneration. Your Prophet says "God gives power to whomever he will." I come to exercise power in your interest. I have irrevocably assured to you the proprietorship of the land you occupy. I have honoured your chiefs and respected your religion. I wish to increase your well-being. Tell your mistaken brethren that 2,000,000 Arabs cannot resist 40,000,000 Frenchmen. I thank the great majority for their fidelity. Great recollections and powerful interests already unite you to the mother country, and a military confraternity has been formed in the Crimea, Italy, China, and Mexico. Place confidence, then, in your destinies, almost united with those of France, and acknowledge, with the Koran, that what God directs is well directed.

Our next week's Number will contain several Engravings illustrative of places and incidents connected with the Emperor's visit to Algeria.



THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION: FROM



ST VIEW OF THE BUILDING ON THE OPENING DAY.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK arrived in England, on Saturday afternoon last, upon a visit to the Royal family.

PRINCE NAPOLEON started on Wednesday for Ajaccio, in Corsica, to be present at the uncovering of a new statue of the Emperor Napoleon I., who is represented on horseback, with his four brothers—Joseph, Lucien, Jerome, and Louis—on their feet, and at his feet.

COUNT PEPOLI, the husband of Mme. Albani, has become insane in Paris.

MR. BERESFORD HOPE has been elected President of the Institute of British Architects.

MR. ALDERMAN JAMES LAWRENCE was, on Tuesday, elected member for Lambeth, in the place of Mr. Williams, deceased. There was no opposition, and little interest was shown in the proceedings.

THE DANISH LOWER HOUSE has been dissolved. The new elections are fixed for the 30th inst.

LITZ, the celebrated pianist, has entered an ecclesiastical establishment at Rome, and received the tonsure from Archbishop Hohenloe.

ABD-EL-KADER has arrived at Constantinople from Syria, as the guest of the Porte, and a special palace has been allotted to him during his stay in that city.

THE HON. RICHARD BETHELL, son of the Lord Chancellor, has been proclaimed an outlaw, at the Sheriffs' Court, Red Lion-square, on the suit of a certain Edward Isaacson.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION between California and British Columbia will be completed in a few weeks.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER is building some capital farm labourers' cottages, on the Siamese principle, at his place at Motcombe. The cost is, on the average, about £400 the pair.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of the new spire of Chichester Cathedral was laid on the 2nd inst. The restoration of the cathedral will cost £52,000, and £46,000 has been subscribed towards it.

A DEPUTATION from Leeds waited upon Lord Amberley, on Tuesday, to ask him to become a candidate for this borough. They showed his Lordship the result of a canvass, which was satisfactory, and he consented to stand for the borough at the next election.

THE SECOND Prize Exhibition of Illuminations by Females will open at Mortimer House, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, on Thursday, the 18th inst.

MR. EDWIN JAMES, ex-Q.C., of London, has appeared at the Winter Garden Theatre, New York, as Friar Laurence, in "Romeo and Juliet." He makes a capital cleric.

ROBERT CHAMBERS, champion waterman, and Robert Cooper, the next best rower, have been matched to row a mile on the Tyne, on the 12th of June, for £100 a side.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of the new Surrey Theatre was laid on Saturday last. The building, which will be of a highly improved character, is expected to be finished in about five months.

A PROPOSAL has been made in America to raise Ford's Theatre (where President Lincoln was murdered) to the ground, and build a monument on the site, to the memory of the martyred President.

NEWCOMB, the lion tamer, holds a mortgage of £127 on a den of lions. He has obtained a writ and execution, but, as the bailiffs will scarcely seize, he will probably have to do that himself.

SOME IDEA of the enormous traffic of this country may be gathered from the fact that there is scarcely ever less than 100 sail of ships near Land's End, leaving, or bearing up for the British or Irish Channels.

A VERY FINE JACK was caught in the pool opposite the Custom House, London, the other day. This is regarded as a proof of the increased purity of the Thames, consequent on the completion of the main drainage.

A CLERGYMAN OF DUNDEE, the other Sunday, took a flower into the pulpit and made it the text for a sermon, in which he alluded to the improving character of the study of natural objects and the tendency of such studies to increase the spirituality of the mind.

CONSIDERABLE MERRIMENT has been occasioned in French literary circles by the publication, in Paris, of a squib, entitled "The History of Napoleon III., by Julius Cæsar." No steps have as yet been taken for its suppression, and it is obtaining a large circulation.

A PENSION TO MR. COBDEN'S WIDOW is shortly to be proposed to Parliament by Government. So, at least, says the Owl.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND took place on Wednesday evening. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and, in proposing the toast of the evening, rated the power and influence of literature very highly.

A MEETING WAS HELD IN ST. PANCRA'S VESTRY HALL, on Wednesday evening, to take steps for the erection of a statue to Richard Cobden. The churchwardens presided. The vestry have granted a capital site for the statue, and at the meeting it was unanimously resolved to raise the necessary funds.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS took place at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday. Notwithstanding the bad weather, it was a complete success.

AN ORIGINAL PLAY, purporting to have been written by Shakespeare, with marginal notes, additions, and corrections in his own handwriting, has recently been deposited in the museum of the Shakespeare house. There is said to be abundance and variety of evidence to support its authenticity, which, if once proved, would render this the most important literary discovery that has been made during the last 250 years.

IN THE LETTER which the Pope dispatched to King Victor Emmanuel inviting him to send an envoy to Rome the King was addressed only as Sovereign of Sardinia, and the Pope closed his epistle without the usual Pontifical benediction.

ON THE 14TH OF APRIL, Orsini, Charlotte Corday, Ravillac, and Booth, committed their crimes; and William III., Anne, George I., George II., George III., George IV., William IV., Washington, President Lincoln, and others, have all died on a Saturday.

A SEVERE FORM OF TYPHUS FEVER has lately been very prevalent in several of the country districts in Malta. Its virulence has now abated, and from a report made by order of the Governor it appears that it was due to overcrowding in ill-ventilated apartments.

ON THE 1ST OF MARCH, 1885, there were in the union workhouses of England and Wales 14,760 paupers—viz., 4426 men and 10,334 women—who were not disqualified by any mental or physical infirmity from earning the average wages of able-bodied persons in the class to which they belong.

THE REV. DR. MANNING, formerly Protestant Archbishop of Chichester, has been appointed to succeed the late Cardinal Wiseman in the Roman Catholic archbishopric of Westminster. In making this appointment the Pope is said to have passed over the nominations of the Roman Catholic Chapter of Westminster altogether.

SERIOUS APPREHENSIONS are said to exist in Cuba of an insurrection of the slaves. Deposits of arms have been found and several negroes arrested. The plot is said to embrace the slaves all over the island.

WILLIAM SOMERVILLE, aged thirty-four, has been sent to a lunatic asylum by the Southwark police magistrate, for sending threatening letters to the Earl of Derby.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS is expected to arrive in London towards the end of next week. During his brief stay he will give three "Conferences." The subjects will be—"The Campaign of Italy and Garibaldi," "Studies of our Contemporaries—Friends and Enemies," and "Introduction to my Dramatic Discourse."

AN ADDRESS was recently sent to the Emperor of the French by some of the inhabitants of Flensburg. The *Dagblad* of Copenhagen now states that three citizens who signed it have been sentenced by the German authorities to six months' imprisonment each.

GENERAL LEE, it is said, is expected to arrive in this country shortly. An American paper says that the General states that when he dispossessed himself of the command of the Confederate forces he kept in mind President Lincoln's benignity, and surrendered as much to the latter's goodness as Grant's artillery. The General said that he regretted Mr. Lincoln's death as much as any man in the North, and that he believed him to be the epitome of magnanimity and good faith.

PRUSSIA, with a territory of 5000 square miles, and a population of thirteen millions, has an army of 200,000 men in time of peace, which costs her £6,000,000; Austria, whose territory is 12,000 square miles, and population thirty-seven millions, has an army of 500,000 men, which costs her £12,000,000; France, with a territory of 10,000 square miles, and a population of thirty-eight millions, has an army of 400,000 men, whose cost is £15,000,000; while our army, including that in India, amounts to 150,000 men, costing £14,000,000.

A MEETING of ladies of rank and fortune has been held in Paris to take into consideration the destitute condition of the negroes emancipated by the late events in the United States. They resolved to form themselves into sub-committees and to occupy themselves in making clothing for the unhappy slaves at present deprived of all means of procuring any.

FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.—An association under this title has just been formed in London, for the purpose of accomplishing the following objects:—1. To obtain the repeal of the duties upon the necessities of the people—tea, coffee, sugar, and all the minor articles of the customs tariff. 2. To obtain the perfect freedom of trade by the substitution, as far as possible, of direct for indirect taxation. 3. To obtain a more equitable adjustment of the property and income tax, in relation to real property and industrial incomes. 4. To obtain such a supervision of the public income as will result in the economical and just expenditure of the funds raised by national taxation. 5. To correspond with free-traders in other countries, with the view of promoting the development of free commercial intercourse between all nations.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"BLOGG, how's Palmerston?" said I to my gossip the other day. "He's not been in the house since the holidays, and I can get no trustworthy intelligence. All the officials profess ignorance, or else tell me he is better." Whereupon Blogg whispered ominously in my ear. "What!" said I, "is it so?" "True; you may depend upon it," he replied, shaking his head and looking prophetic. What my friend said I will not repeat; because, though I heard the rumour afterwards, I have had it contradicted positively, and am assured that the disease which keeps the noble Lord at home is simply another attack of the gout, which his doctors say he will soon get over, and may be in his place before the week is out. Nevertheless, he is eighty-one, or nearly so; and these successive attacks—though some say they are his safety-valves—cannot but make his friends anxious. The House is very dull without him, and his absence shows us every day that he is the axle of the Ministerial wheel; and that, he gone, the wheel would fly to pieces. We have seen something of this sort happen before, as you will remember. When Earl Spencer died and Lord Althorp went to the Lords, the Ministry dissolved. That was in 1834.

It is very doubtful whether the man Mitchell who is charged with forging signatures to petitions will be got into gaol. The subject is to be referred back to the Committee, who are to make fresh investigations, but it is questioned whether they will succeed in convincing the House that Mitchell was the transgressor. The fact is, as I have before said, these Committees are very unsatisfactory tribunals in such cases as this. They are accusers, judges, and juries, with no rules of evidence to guide them, and with no well-defined laws, merely doubtful precedents and ancient mouldy customs. Nor are the judges lawyers. Very much like Star Courts are these Committees, and altogether out of harmony with the age. If Mitchell be accused of a crime, why not instruct the Attorney-General to prosecute him. It is said, though, that against the law of the realm the forging signatures to petitions is no crime. I suspect that Mitchell will escape. Twenty years ago he would have been sent to Newgate very promptly. But times are changed, and even Conservatives now talk about "the liberty of the subject," and the right of every man—all Parliamentary custom to the contrary, notwithstanding—to a fair trial. Mr. Strutt, who employed the agent, pleads entire innocence; but he acknowledges that the signatures got were to be paid for at the rate of a penny a name. What, then, could he expect but forgeries? especially to such petitions as these. How could he imagine that people would sign petitions in favour of Azem Jah, of whom not one in a thousand of the dwellers in London ever heard?

I am glad to observe from the local journals that Mr. W. T. Robertson's new and really original comedy, entitled "Society," which has just been produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Liverpool, is a decided and deserved success. The *Liverpool Daily Post* says, that the piece "was throughout most enthusiastically applauded. Hardly a line in it fell coldly on the audience. At the end of the first act a loud call for the artistes was followed by a protracted cry for the author, who was too modest or cautious to accept the rarely preceded honour. And at the termination of the piece he received what we must call, *pace* the classicists, an ovation, presenting himself before the curtain in response to one of the most sonorous tributes to successful authorship we ever heard paid." Mr. Robertson is already favourably known as a dramatic author, his adaptation of a French piece under the title of "David Garrick," in particular, having been exceedingly successful on the boards of the Haymarket, Mr. Sothorn playing the principal part; and I heartily congratulate him on this new and more legitimate success.

It is often made a subject of reproach to large constituencies, and especially borough constituencies, and is cited as a proof of their ignorance and want of appreciation of great talent, that they seldom send men of pre-eminent capacity to Parliament. I shall not trouble myself just now as to whether or not this taunt is justified by facts; but I beg to remark that one of the most learned constituencies in the country is open to the still more serious reproach that it will not keep a distinguished man as its representative when it has got him. Oxford University was at one time represented by the late Sir Robert Peel, from which position he was ousted because he became too liberal for his constituents, and had to fall back upon Tamworth, in order to make way, if I remember rightly, for Sir Robert Harry Inglis, a very respectable man in his way, but not for a moment to be compared to Sir Robert. Oxford is now represented by William Ewart Gladstone, and he certainly confers more honour on his constituents than even his learned constituents can confer upon him. And yet an effort is being made to oust him, too, from his seat, and for the same reason—namely, that he also has become too liberal for Oxford University. No wonder that even Dr. Pusey, intensely Conservative as he is, should be ashamed of this movement; for there is something peculiarly appropriate in such a constituency as that of Oxford University being represented by a man like Mr. Gladstone. He is one of her most distinguished alumni; he is an accomplished and elegant scholar; he is the first British orator and the most successful financier of his age; and surely, if Oxford University parts with Mr. Gladstone, she will gain a grave loss of reputation, and be still more open to the charge of incapacity to appreciate eminent qualities than any large borough constituency has ever shown itself to be.

Our old friend *Fim*, which has for some time past been declining in its literary department, has now passed into new hands, and will, next week, be brought out under the editorship of Mr. Tom Hood. The original staff of writers, who established the success of the periodical in the first instance, will, I believe, return to it, and there will be no obstacle to the infusion of the new blood so essential to the vitality of publications of this class.

The 4th London Regiment of Rifle Volunteers has been disbanded by a War Office order. This corps was known as the Foresters. The Foresters, though a highly respectable body, have curious ways of thought and action. They believe that they are in some mysterious manner connected with Shakespeare, merry Sherwood, and Garibaldi; and that they look nobler in green tunics, brigand hats, and buff boots than in corduroys; for none of which delusions there exists the slightest foundation. When they obtained permission (on condition of not being exclusive) to form a rifle corps, they wished to exhibit themselves on parade in their peculiar costume, with all the appurtenances of huge feathers and crochet-work collars half a foot deep. This delight was authoritatively denied, whereupon many were disgusted. Their slovenliness at drill and the incompetence of their officers last year drew forth a smart rebuke from the Government Inspector; and this had the effect of disgusting them still more. Instead of bringing themselves up to the standard of the other corps, they neglected drill more than ever; and hence the catastrophe.

LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Temple Bar contains one article which is of much higher quality than anything commonly to be found in its "padding" (though why essays should be "padding" goodness only knows, as Copperfield's aunt used to say apropos of Blunderstone Bookery). The paper I refer to is entitled "Cynicism," and it is well worth reading. One sentence may be quoted:—"Efforts after unattainable ideals must be discarded, and we must confine ourselves to seeing what is within our powers, and doing that." This is, of course, only the old story, and inevitably starts the old question—If what we have experimentally proved to be attainable is to be the guide of life, what is the meaning, or the motive, of any effort at all? Cynicism may try for a thousand years, but it will never be able to crack that nut. It is not the attained, or the experimentally-proved attainable (the same thing under two names), which now governs us, but the apparently unattainable.

The *British Army and Navy Review* is one of the pleasantest of the monthly magazines. Not for the first time, I may make the remark that a magazine with a *specialty* almost always is. Not to particularise, the whole of the present number is good. The article

on Duelling gives (another) voice to a feeling which has long been active in a certain large class of energetic minds, to the effect that we have lost as well as gain to put to the account of our repudiation of duelling in modern times. The writer might have added that if there were any means, organised or other, of infallible provision for the survivors of those who fall in single combat, one of the strongest objections to this ancient mode of appealing to the occult powers which are on the side of right, and held ready to declare themselves in its favour upon due reference made, would be obviated. We strongly suspect there are very few men who have not a secret hankering after the duel.

It is a long time since we saw Sir John Herschel in *Good Words*. But we all remember with affectionate respect his grand refusal to "sign" the vulgar declaration that was hawked round among men of science some time ago, and are glad to meet him again. Here he is, then, writing about "Light," as no other man in Europe could write about it. Mr. Kingsley's romance of "Hereward" is full of characteristic pictures, and the editor's sketches of Eastern travel are admirable in their manly simplicity and freedom from clerical "twang."

The *Household Monthly Magazine* I have before found reason to recommend. It is an excellent sixpennyworth of story, essay, and poetry. It is edited with great care and zeal. I entirely disagree with the advice given, in one of the extracts, to sit facing the light. I believe it is better to sit back to the light; to sit sideways to the light we all know to be wrong. By-the-way, Hildebrand, in the woodcut to the Danish ballad, is a likeness of Disraeli.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

With all its literary and poetic merits (and it certainly possesses a large share of both), I do not think that Mr. Falconer's play, "Love's Ordeal," can fairly be pronounced a success. The whole play, and every act, scene, and speech in the play, is twice as long as it ought to be. In these days of sensation, rapid action, startling effects, and hairbreadth escapes, five-act dramas in blank verse are not popular. Shakespeare still retains a respectable hold on the DRURY LANE audiences, but I fancy that this is rather a concession made in deference to tradition and the palmy days of legitimacy than because the Drury Lane audiences derive more gratification from "Henry VIII." than from "Arrah-na-Pogue." Sheridan Knowles is tolerated now and then, but it must not be too often; and even then the cast should include a sensation debutante. Mr. Falconer has taken the rosy view of the character of Robespierre, and represents him as a good-hearted, well-meaning man, with an absolute horror of bloodshed. He plays the part carefully, and with good taste; and, although it is at first rather startling to find Robespierre declaiming blank verse with a strong Irish brogue, the ear gets accustomed to it long before the five acts have come to an end. By-the-way, why does he not spell the name "R. O'Bespierre," and make an Irishman of him at once? The other parts, especially those filled by Mr. Walter Lacy and Mrs. Charles Young, are very admirably played.

Mrs. Bateman made her reappearance at the ADELPHI as Bianca, in Dean Milman's dismal play of "Fazio," on Monday last. The play contains three principal parts—Fazio, Bianca, and Aldebella—and it possesses this disadvantage, that no one of these personages claims in any material degree the sympathies of the audience. Fazio is a gloomy thief, Bianca is a revengeful demon, and Aldebella is a vindictive courtesan. Miss Bateman did her best with Bianca, and exhibited due pathos in the trial-scene and in the dungeon. I think Miss Bateman has improved in her delivery since her first appearance in "Leah," and she is as graceful and statuesque as ever. Mr. Jordan's Fazio is a heavy, uninteresting performance. Mrs. Billington played the ungrateful part of Aldebella with unexpected power; indeed, in the garden-scene with Fazio, in the beginning of the second act, she seemed to take the audience altogether by surprise. A word of praise is due to Mr. C. J. Smith, who gave the few lines allotted to the dying miser, in the first act, with excellent effect.

Mr. Leigh Murray is about to take a complimentary benefit at DRURY LANE. All who knew this admirable actor before his health was completely shattered will take an interest in doing all in their power for one who, in his time, has done so much for them. The committee-list includes the names of all who have identified themselves directly or indirectly with the drama, and all that an ardent bill and powerful cast can do to ensure a great success will be done on this occasion.

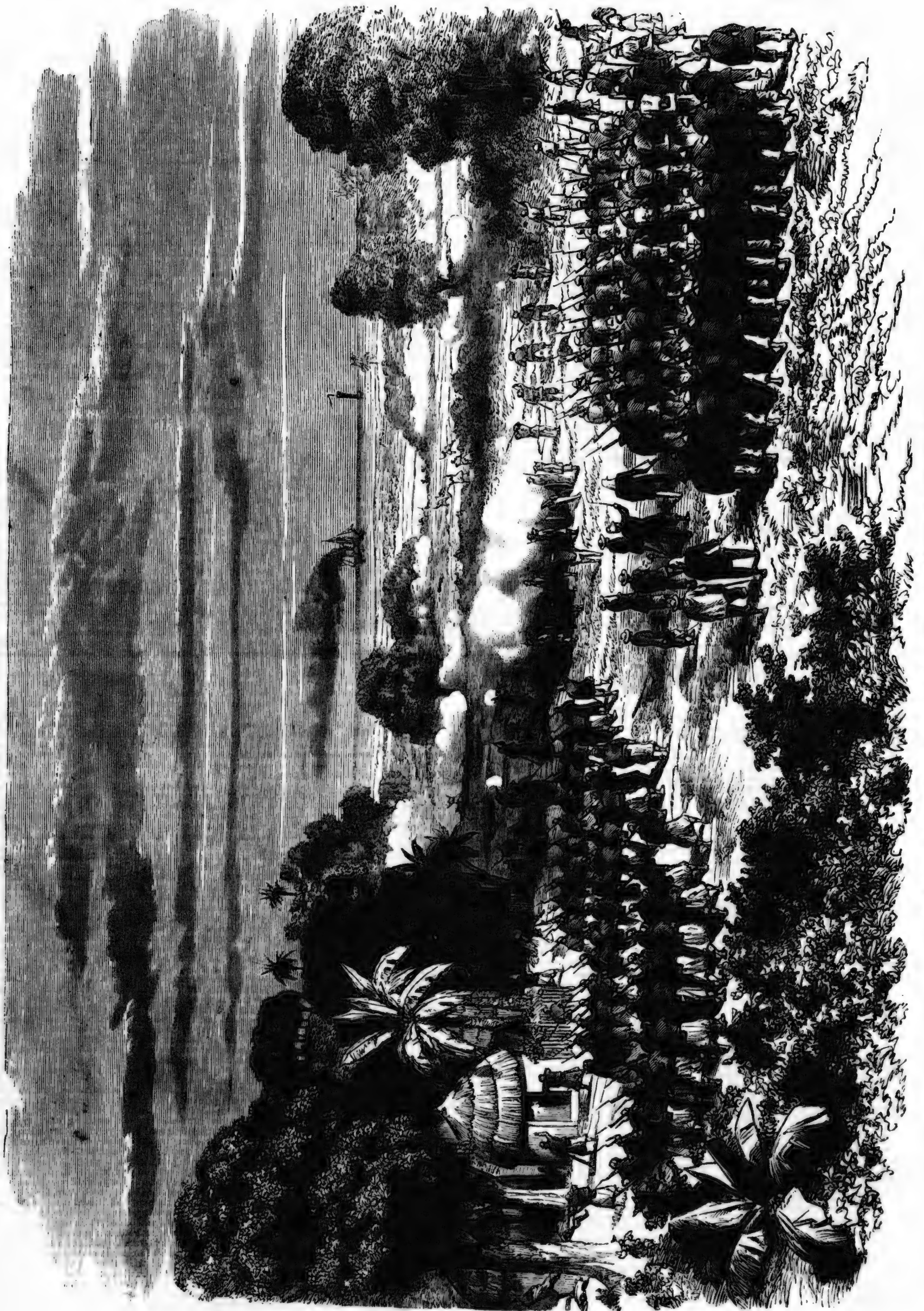
FENIANISM IN IRELAND.—A meeting of the "Fenian Brotherhood" was held in Clontarf on Sunday last. About three o'clock a crowd of men and boys, to the number of 1500, assembled at Dollymount, and proceeded in procession to the plains of Clontarf, where they were joined by a large body of their confederates. Inflammatory addresses were delivered by a Mr. Doyle, who appeared to be the leader in the proceedings. The ostensible object of the demonstration was to express sympathy with the people of the United States, but the real purpose seems to have been to give vent to a quantity of sedition, and to advise the working classes not to join their countrymen in giving a loyal welcome to the Prince of Wales. The advertisement calling the meeting was as follows:—"Sic semper tyrannis! 1865 v. 1172. Irishmen!—693 years of bloody extermination and rapacious plunder by British butchers (countrymen of the Queen of England's son) demand of you silence and contempt, and not even by your outward appearance show the slightest participation in the hollow rejoicings that will be paraded before you on the 9th by the descendants of Strongbow and Cromwell, who happen to be born in Ireland, but avow their allegiance to England. Irishmen! testify your loyalty and devotion to Ireland by uniting in the bonds of brotherhood to have Ireland for the Irish! By order of the Vigilance Committee. God save the people! The speakers talked of planting the green flag and the stars and stripes on the Irish soil, with the help of the Americans."

ROYAL INSURANCE BUILDINGS, LOMBARD-STREET.—The transfer of the business of the Royal Insurance Company to their new premises, "Royal Insurance Buildings," Lombard-street, took place on Saturday, the 29th ult. The new building is, altogether, perhaps, the handsomest, and certainly one of the largest, insurance edifices in London. No pains or expense have been spared to render it perfect in its external decorations and internal fittings; the doorway, indeed, is the most striking and elaborate work of the kind we have ever seen, and is embellished, in addition to its other adornments, with two exquisite pieces of white marble sculpture by Thorneycroft. The building is only worthy of the institution for which it has been erected, the progress of the Royal Insurance Company being quite without parallel, in most respects, in the history of commerce—it having attained, without one single purchase of the business of another office, in eighteen years, the enormous annual revenue of £600,000; and, according to the latest Government returns of duty, it is still increasing more rapidly than any other office.

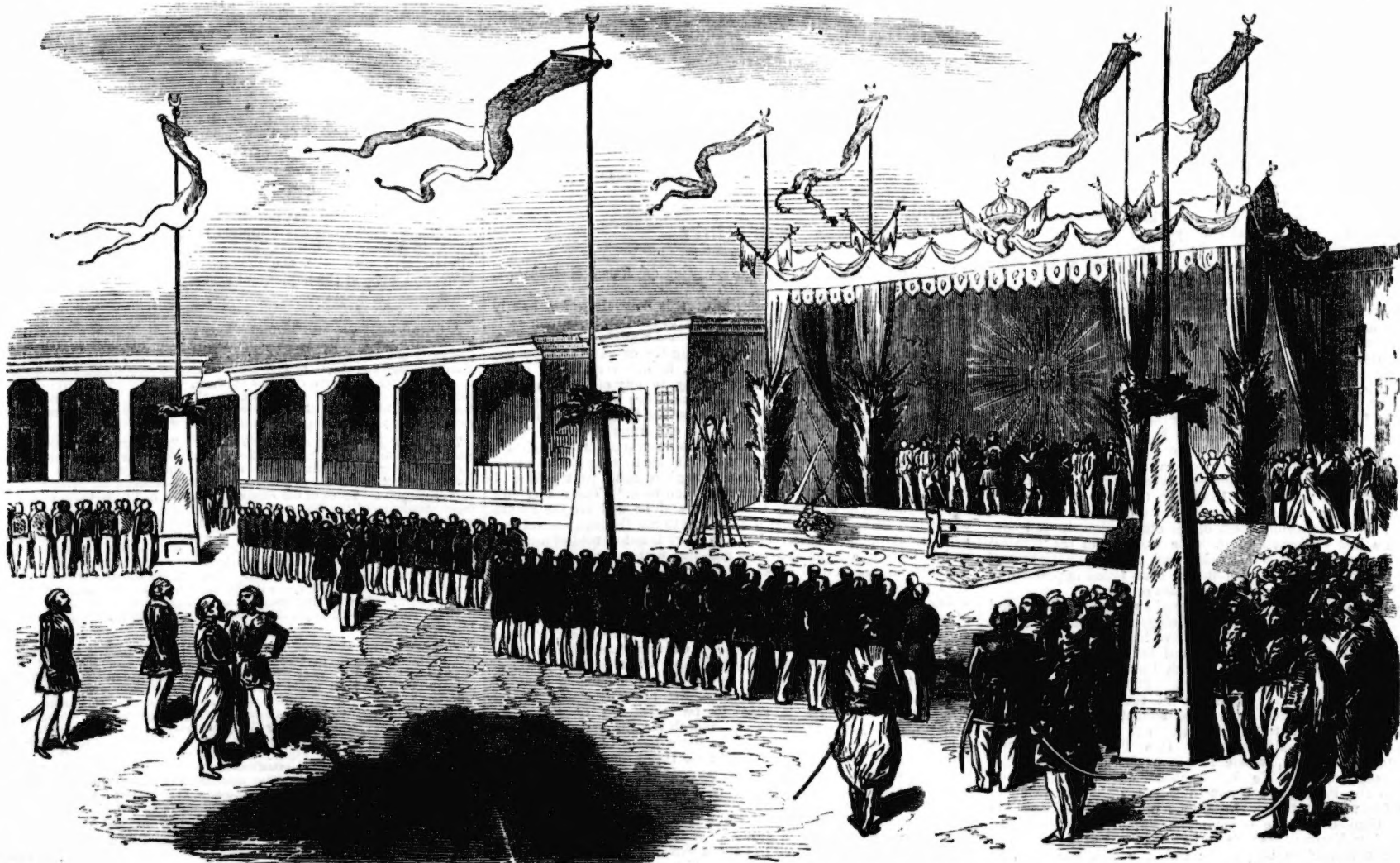
THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL IN HYDE PARK.—Considerable progress has been made with the sketch models for the subjects on the east and south fronts of the podium of the national memorial to the late Prince Consort at South Kensington, the arts selected for illustration being "Music" and "Painting." These have been entrusted to Mr. H. Armistead, the sculptor, and her Majesty has recently inspected the progress of the work in this artist's studio at Pimlico. Each side of the podium will be about 56 ft. long; and the height of the figures, which are to be executed in Sicilian marble, will be about 6 ft. The south side of the podium is devoted to "Music," the poet Homer, with lyre in hand, and seated on a dais, occupying the central portion of the subject. Poets and musicians of the English, German, Italian, and French schools, among whom are Shakespeare, Milton, Chaucer, Dante, Goethe, Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, &c., are ranged round the ancient bard, each attired in appropriate drapery. On each flank of the podium "Painting" will be represented by selections from the various ancient and modern schools, grouped around the figure of Raphael, who is depicted seated and holding his sketch-book in his hand. Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Velasquez, Marillo, Claude, David, De la Croix, the brothers Van Eyck, Rubens, Hogarth, Wilkie, Turner, and other ancient and modern masters of the Italian, German, English, Spanish, and French schools of painting, are here represented with great taste and judgment; and some idea of the patient time and labour which will have to be devoted to the working out of this grand piece of sculptural conception may be formed when it is stated that in the subjects on the south and east sides of the podium there are no less than eighty figures, the carving of which will take several years to execute. The subjects on the north and west sides of the podium will be respectively "Architecture" and "Sculpture," and these are being worked out by Mr. Phillips, of Hans-place.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW SURREY THEATRE was laid last Saturday morning. The new theatre will differ materially from the old one, inasmuch as it will occupy a far greater space of ground. What was considered waste land at the back of the stage will be thrown into the building, and the boxes, pit, and gallery will be constructed on a novel and, it is believed, an improved form.

At eight o'clock in the morning the native force had disappeared, and the French took entire possession of the village, where the property of the people and the large quantity of rice which had been collected in the granaries were scrupulously protected, a dozen prisoners being held as hostages until a sufficient ransom was paid. In a few days the first instalment of this ransom was received in the form of a large quantity of rice; and the troops then re-embarked.



THE FRENCH IN SENEGAL: THE TAKING OF THE VILLAGE OF GUIMBERG, ON THE CASAMANCA.



THE VICEROY OF EGYPT DISTRIBUTING PRIZES TO THE PUPILS OF THE ABASSIEH, AT CAIRO.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE PUPILS OF ABASSIEH, AT CAIRO.

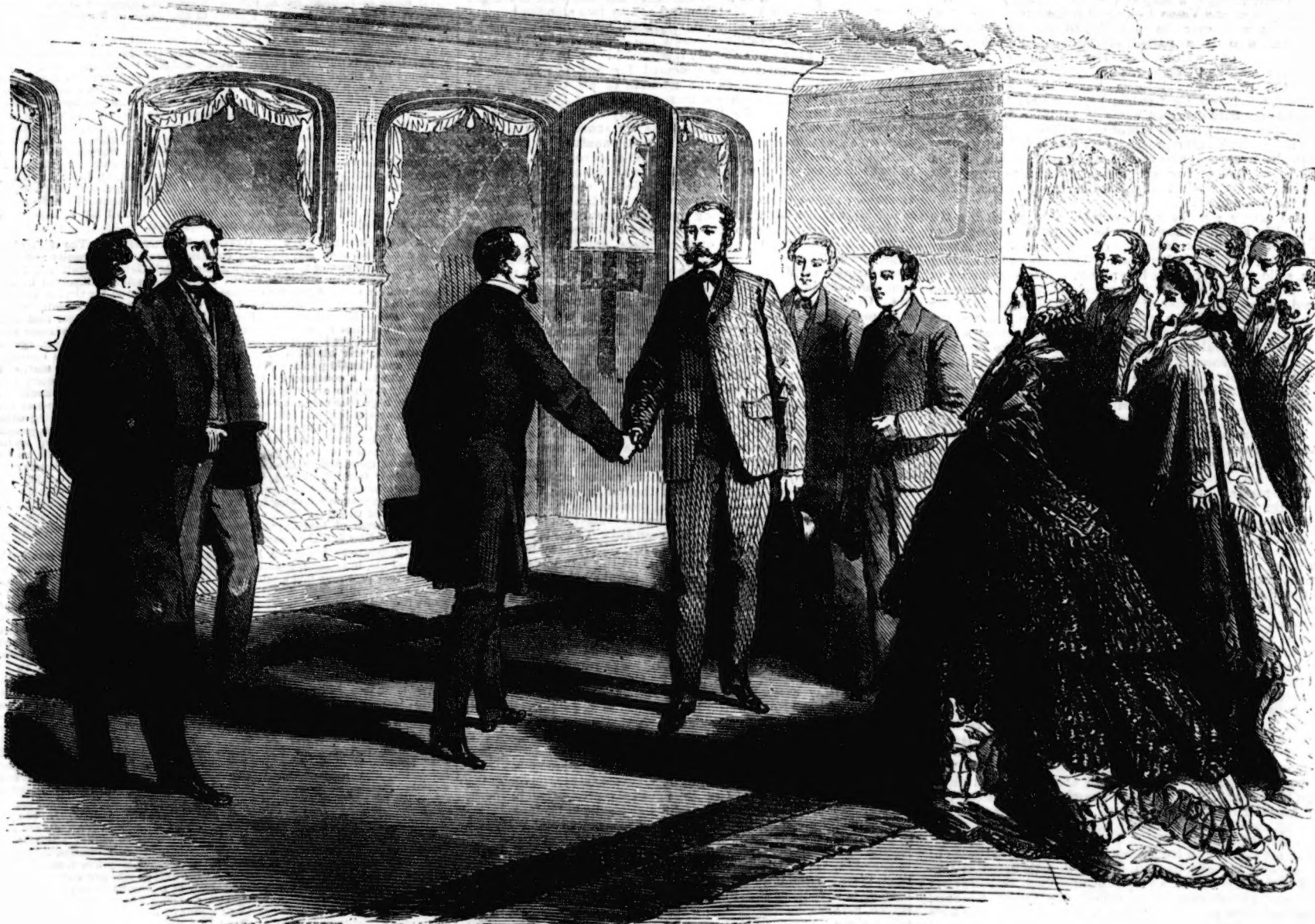
OUR Engraving represents a ceremony which has just taken place at Cairo, and which may be considered as illustrative of the wonderful progress lately made by Egypt in escaping from that conservative Orientalism which refused to accept anything of European origin. The occasion was that of presenting prizes to the pupils of the schools of Abassieh, which were founded by the Viceroy, and the Viceroy himself presented those testimonials to the fortunate aspirants, surrounded by the principal functionaries of State and the Diplomatic Corps. A handsome tribune, surmounted by a canopy, was erected in the principal court of the school itself, and decorated with trophies and panoplies of arms, while the red and

green drapery forming the back of the tribune was ornamented by a glittering star of bayonets and sword-blades, and the monogram "J. P." was displayed on each side in the midst of pistols. The pillars were decked with branches of the date-palm; while pillars crowned with leaves and supporting bannerets, and handsome stands of arms, marked the approach to the dais where the Viceroy delivered the prizes.

THE MEETING OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND THE CZAR AT THE RAILWAY STATION, IN PARIS.

On his recent journey to Nice, whither he was called to the death-bed of the Czarewitch, the Emperor Alexander alighted for a short time at the station of the Northern Railway of France, where the

Emperor of the French and her Highness Princess Mathilde, attended by General Fleury, waited to receive the august party. On alighting at the platform, the Emperors shook hands, with impressive cordiality; and the Czar then presented his two sons, Princes Vladimir and Alexis. The first, who is eighteen years of age and commander of the New Regiment of Russian Dragoons, is the third son of the Emperor; and the second, who is fifteen years old, is commander of the Infantry Regiment of Catherinebourg. Their Imperial Majesties of France and Russia had only a few minutes' conversation in the midst of the attendants who accompanied the Emperor of the French; after which the Czar re-entered the carriage, and the French Emperor joined him until the train started on its journey towards Nice.



MEETING OF THE EMPERORS OF FRANCE AND RUSSIA AT THE RAILWAY STATION, PARIS.

THE OPERA.

THE production of "L'Etoile du Nord" at the Royal Italian Opera has not been attended with any great success. The chief parts, formerly given to such singers as Bosio, Gardoni, and Lablache, are now intrusted to Mlle Sonieri, to a tenor deservedly unknown to fame whose name escapes us, and to Signor Ciampi. The chorus is good, and the orchestra is all that could be desired; but the music of the principal characters is very indifferently sung. In the meanwhile great preparations are being made for the production of the Italian version of "L'Africaine." The work has now been performed several times in Paris, and nothing in it has failed, except that *monstrum horrendum* the ship; and if Mlle Meyerbeer could prevail upon the management either to withdraw the vessel, or to cut it down, or at least to keep it quiet, so that its absurd movements may not take away the attention of a large portion of the audience from the music, she would by doing so show a becoming respect for her husband's memory, and at the same time render an important service to the public.

At the first representation the execution of the music occupied four hours, while two hours more were taken up by the intervals between the acts. An average pause of half an hour to every hour of music is rather too much, and a grand total of six hours for music and *entr'actes* together is intolerable. Even the Emperor, who can resist fatigue as well as most men, was unable to stand this. At Solferino he remained on the field until the end of the battle. At the first representation of "L'Africaine" he felt himself beaten after the fourth act, and retired from the theatre at half-past twelve. It had taken thirty-five minutes to place the ship on the stage for the third act, and forty minutes to take it off again for the fourth. How was his Majesty to know that the shipbuilders would not have some further work to do between acts four and five? Moreover, the ship is not like a ship, nor has it any perceptible sea to float on; nor, when it is wrecked, would it be possible, from direct observation, to tell that any such fate had happened to it. The violence of the musical storm prepares us for the catastrophe, and the exclamations and shrieks of the crew suggest it, but it has been found impossible to place it before the public as a visible picture or scene.

On the rising of the curtain, Inez, beloved by Vasco di Gama and by the rich and powerful Don Pedro, sings an air in which she regrets the absence of the former of her two lovers. This graceful "romance," executed with much taste and feeling by Mlle. Marie Battu, is followed by a terezetto, in which Inez, her father, and the rich and powerful Don Pedro, take part. The object of the two gentlemen is to make Inez abandon all thought of Vasco di Gama, who is represented as a mere adventurer. Inez, however, remains faithful to her lover, and soon afterwards Vasco di Gama himself appears. Don Pedro wishes him at the bottom of the sea, where it was generally supposed that he had already arrived. He has escaped death, however, and has come to the Portuguese Court to solicit a ship in which to repeat his favourite and very hazardous project of doubling the Cape. The Council of State is summoned, when the ecclesiastical members declare Vasco di Gama's project to savour of heresy. The Cape cannot, they declare, be passed; and it would, moreover, be useless to pass it, inasmuch as the Church does not recognise the existence of any power beyond it. Vasco protests, insults the Council, and is condemned for his impertinence to perpetual imprisonment. The scene between Vasco and the Council is made the groundwork of a magnificent finale, which in many respects recalls the blessing of the daggers in the "Huguenots." Instead of blessings, the Bishops and other members of the superior clergy in "L'Africaine" pronounce nothing but curses. But in the one opera they bless crime; in the other they curse virtue. The two scenes, then, are not, after all, so different as would at first appear.

In the second act we find Vasco di Gama sleeping in his prison, attended by his two slaves, Selika and Nelusko. Selika sings "Le Chant du Sommeil," a beautiful melody of Oriental character, which Mlle. Saxe, the representative of the Africaine, renders charmingly. After a characteristic song for the savage Nelusko (Faure), in which his love for Selika and his hatred of Vasco are forcibly expressed, the great navigator is awakened by Selika to receive a lesson in geography. Oddly enough, a map of the African coast hangs on the wall of the prison, and Vasco, looking at it, asks, in a despondent tone, whether it will ever be possible to pass the Cape in safety. Selika, who is a native of Madagascar, points out the proper route, on which her enthusiastic pupil takes her in his arms and embraces her. At this moment Inez enters the prison and informs Vasco that he is free. She has, in fact, purchased his freedom by giving her hand to Don Pedro—who has not only deprived Vasco of his bride, but has also (as it afterwards appears) robbed him of his project for doubling the Cape. The indignant Vasco reproaches Inez for her infidelity; Don Pedro triumphs over the misfortunes of Vasco; while Selika laments the ingratitude of her former master—who, to prove that he does not care for her, has actually given her away to Inez. This scene forms the finale to act ii.

In the third act we see the much-vaunted ship, which fills the whole stage. We at once know it to be a ship from the rigging; otherwise, this representation of the interior of a man-of-war is very like the interior of a large wooden house. There are sailors singing on the deck, sailors singing on the lower deck, and sailors singing in the cabin. The manner in which the sailors' and the women's songs are combined reminds the hearer of the finale to the second act of the "Etoile du Nord," in which the march of the Russian infantry, the march of the Cossacks, and a soldiers' chorus are executed simultaneously. After the choral music comes a ballad for Nelusko, very grotesque in character and somewhat in the style of Marcell's well-known song in the "Huguenots." Nelusko's ballad tells the story of Adamastor, the Spirit of the Tempest, and contains sarcastic cautions to the European sailors. In fact, a storm soon afterwards breaks out, though not until Vasco, who has followed the man-of-war in a little vessel of his own, has come on board and warned the Captain that Nelusko, the volunteer pilot, is steering the vessel towards a bed of rocks. Don Pedro, who is in command, will not listen to the suggestions of his hated rival, and the ship strikes on the coast of Madagascar. Here Nelusko is at home, and Selika is Queen of the island. The crew of the Portuguese vessel are doomed to death. Vasco alone is safe, thanks to the protection of the Queen. The others are stabbed, if they are men; or, if they are women, are taken to die beneath the upas-tree.

The fourth act commences with a chorus and an Indian march—a magnificent instrumental piece. Then comes Vasco's principal solo, "O paradis sorti de l'onde!" sung by Naudin to perfection. Vasco is delighted with the scenery of Madagascar, and seems to have quite forgotten Inez, whom he has every reason to believe dead. It is on that account, no doubt, that he accepts the advances now made to him very confidently by Queen Selika, whom he marries in accordance with Madagascar law. The duet between Vasco and Selika in which this arrangement is brought about is the finest piece in the opera, and may well be compared to the celebrated duet between Raoul and Valentine in "Les Huguenots." The duet between Selika and Vasco is followed by a very brilliant dance and chorus for bayaderes, waiting-women, and female attendants of various kinds, who end by carrying off Vasco to Selika's palace; for, at the last moment, his heart somewhat fails him. He has heard the voice of Inez, who, after all, is not dead; and, though he endeavours to persuade himself that the melody of her song, "Adieu, rive du Tage" (heard before in the first act), is being sung by spirits, he is evidently not quite convinced of the truth of this monstrous theory.

In the fifth act there is no longer any doubt as to the existence of Inez. She appears to have had an interview with Vasco, in consequence of which Selika, in a very dramatic duet, threatens her with the severest punishment. The unfortunate Queen, however, relents. She resolves to unite Inez to Vasco, whose love she now feels it to be impossible to secure, and herself resolves to die. In the final scene the centre of the stage is filled by the fatal upas-tree. In the background the ocean is seen, and on it and about to set sail a ship, which is to convey Inez and Vasco to Europe. Selika looks

silently at the sea, and in the meanwhile the ritornello, of which so much has been said and which at each performance produces an almost magical effect, is played in unison by the violoncellos, altos, and bassoons. Selika now sings the song of the upas-tree, and, lying down beneath its branches, soon falls into a dreamy sleep, from which she is awakened by the report of the gun fired by Vasco's departing vessel. Her visions have been rudely disturbed, but she closes her eyes again, dreams once more of an ideal Vasco, and dies.

The success of "L'Africaine" is all that could possibly be desired. The only fault to be found with it is that it is too long—a serious fault certainly, but which may be, and certainly will be, remedied when the Italian version of the work is brought out at the Royal Italian Opera.

Literature.

The Heiress of the Blackburnfoot. A Tale of Rural Scottish Life. Smith, Elder, and Co.

To an English reader the sub-title of this "novelette" is hardly calculated to strengthen the temptation to read it, inasmuch as it suggests a page after page of dialogue in broad Scotch, which, though rendered tolerably, if not always, intelligible or agreeable by the character-painting of Sir Walter Scott, is not very likely to be regarded, in a story of mediocre ability, in any other light than that of material to "skip over." *Ex uno disce omnes.* One little sentence, taken at random, will suffice to show the very alarming style of phraseology which meets the eye upon occasions when inverted commas are conspicuous. "It's no the siller, though it's a sair thing to lose a beast, but Jean's been so guid a beast. Mother says if it had na' been her giein milk that winter I had the hoopin'-cough, I wad ne'er ha' been here." The reader will himself endeavour to supply the accent, and he will see the nature of the task he has to perform if he wishes to run through the volume without "skipping." Nevertheless, the story is not devoid of interest, and is told in a light and easy manner, without any attempt at romantic or sensational effect, or any desire to represent poor ill-used nature otherwise than as she may be seen in our everyday walks through life. "The Heiress of the Blackburnfoot" is a girl of somewhat humble birth but very enviable prospects, her father, James Hamilton, being a well-to-do farmer, whose property has descended to him from a "long line of ancestors," but who, to the infinite annoyance of another branch of the family tree—the Hamiltons of Stanecroft—has no ambition beyond that of making his only child, Mary, a smart housewife and skilful milker of cows. He is said to be possessed of "a heap o' siller," but yet he seeks no high match for his daughter, and is content that she should remain the little deity of his farmyard. But the more aspiring mother—Kirstie Hamilton—has done the mischief, and at the beginning of the story she has allowed a budding lawyer to regard her fair daughter hopefully. His chance, however, was a very remote one, and nothing comes of it; for Mary has a stalwart cousin at Stanecroft—George Hamilton—who, like herself, has been brought up to the duties of a farm, and who, therefore, might naturally be expected to have a warm sympathy—and something more—for the bewitching maiden, with the charms of Fortune about her as well as those which Nature gave her. But, seeing how prodigal the latter "dame" had been to her, George would have been a mercenary wretch, indeed, had he cared one jot for those she derived from the former. Here are a few lines describing this fascinating Scottish lassie:—"From the dimpled little hand to the finely-turned foot there was not one vulgar curve or line in face or form—a plump little rustic Hebe, not a dairymaid. Neither was low or mean sentiment lodged in her guileless heart or uttered by her pretty lips." What wonder, then, that poor George's peace of mind should be disturbed—that his home duties should be interfered with—that he should be constantly struggling between hope and doubt, and expectation, and even jealousy? Such beauties as this book describes its heroine to be are not so numerous beyond the Tweed that a young man who sees little of the outside world would be likely to be proof against her charms. But the old, old story—"the course of true love," &c. While little Mary is anxious to cultivate her taste for home and horticultural pursuits she is taken in hand by two efficient aunts—Miss Jane and Miss Catharine Burns, both "first-class milliners," with a "talent for gentility"—who are resolved that she shall become what nature had evidently intended her to be, a fine lady. A strong-minded governess is procured for her, but she has no sooner established herself as the mistress of all the rights and privileges of her pupil than she must needs marry Cousin John—an eccentric member of the Hamilton family—and hence Mary is packed off to school, where she remains for some little time, and then runs home to her father, whom, not unnaturally, she loves more than her books. Meanwhile the mischievous god, with his quiver full of arrows, is pointing his shafts at her, and through her, at George also; but George is "easily jealous," and gentle Mary is the same; and so, between the former believing that the girl's heart is not his, and the latter fancying that the object of her attachment is about to wed another, each is profoundly uncomfortable. At length the bewildered George quits his home, and his cows, and his dogs, and his houses for Australia; and while there he makes little or no mention of Mary, whose thoughts are always turned towards him, far away in a foreign land, and, perhaps, never dreaming of her. Of course the aunts are determined that the young spinster shall marry somebody *they* like, rather than one whom she likes herself; and so poor little Mary's misery is sustained during her separation from George, but "ocean parts not kindred souls."

Although no correspondence is kept up between Mary and the ex-patriated George there is sufficient evidence at last that each is thinking of the other, and that before the volume is quite brought to a close they will be knit together in the bonds of wedlock. And yet the reader's suspense is kept alive with no little skill; for great changes have taken place in the fortunes of the respective families of Stanecroft and Blackburnfoot—Mary's father, James Hamilton, is dead, and Mary, instead of becoming the rich heiress she was expected to be, is left comparatively poor; whilst, on the contrary, George has amassed great wealth at the "diggings;" and a considerable amount of property in mineral productions which was supposed to belong to "Blackburnfoot," turns out—alas! for poor Mary—to be a part of the possessions of "Stanecroft." There is some little ground, therefore, to fear that after all little Mary may be doomed to the same fate which is constantly befalling confiding damsels who put their trust, not in "princes," but in those whom they regard as far higher than princes in the great scale of society. But no; after the lapse of four years George comes back to his native Stanecroft, and finds Mary—despite the persevering opposition of her aunts—still true and faithful to him. How, indeed, could it ever be imagined that one who is described to have been almost as near an approach to an angel as humanity can reach could possibly behave otherwise than as an angel? On his return George puts aside all further ceremony and delay, and in a brief space of time Mary is his wife. Now, all this is not intended as a "full, true, and particular" account of the story under consideration, but simply as an indication of some of its more prominent features; and from this indication it will be seen that the materials are of the slightest—that is to say, there is no grand sensational effect; there are no murders, no conspiracies, no agrarian outrages, no cruel fathers or designing uncles, no fraudulent trustees or nefarious attorneys—in short, none of those time-worn elements which generally enter into the ingredients of a modern work of fiction. The story proceeds step by step in the natural order of things, according to the processes which regulate the events of everyday life; and, if it be sometimes open to the objection that it moves too slowly, no one can deny that, at least, it moves smoothly and pleasantly. The writing, as already hinted, is melodious and unstrained, though occasionally a little tinged, perhaps, by affectation; while some of the personages in the tale (as, for instance, "Cousin John" and the two maiden aunts) are very ably and humorously sketched; and the character of Mary is poetically conceived and most gracefully and prettily depicted. A vision of her youthful and slender form tripping along the farm-

yard with her milking-pail might turn a hermit from his beads or an alderman from his turtle. Mary Hamilton will live long in the recollection of those who make her acquaintance through this history, which, however, would almost seem to have been written rather as a preparatory step to something of higher pretensions than as a perfect achievement in the realms of fiction.

The Artistic Anatomy of the Horse. By B. WATERHOUSE HAWKINS, F.L.S., F.G.S. Winsor and Newton.

This is the second edition of a little one-shilling manual, which must be indispensable and invaluable to every artist who contemplates committing a horse to canvas. The work, though small, seems perfect. Every bone and every muscle receives attention in detail; and, to ensure that nothing shall run the risk of being misunderstood, the author has supplied twenty-four full-page illustrations, in which the interior and exterior economy of the "friend of man" is shown with the dexterity and truth of the dissecting-knife, and without the unpleasant accompaniments of the operating-table.

A CHILD LOST ON THE MOORS.—Very great excitement was occasioned in Thornton, on Tuesday, by an announcement by the bellman that a boy, five years old had strayed away from Cropton. The child was traced to Marton village and thence to Thornton, where the inhabitants formed bands of searchers for his discovery. One of these, between two and three in the morning, found the child asleep among the heather, fully twenty miles distant from his home. How he traversed the distance without rest or food seems perfectly astonishing. He is now quite well.

TRIALS OF LIFE-BOATS AT CHERBOURG.—Some comparative trials were made, on the 3rd and 4th inst., at Cherbourg, with some French and English life-boats under the superintendence of some officers of the French Imperial navy and Captain Ward, R.N., Inspector of Life-boats to the National Life-boat Institution. Three of the English life-boats had been built under the superintendence of the National Institution, one of the French life-boats was on the plan of M. Lahure, and the other from the design of M. Mone. One English life-boat only was tried on the occasion. The boats underwent the usual harbour trials of self-righting, self-ejection of water, and testing their stability, and in each particular the superiority of the English life-boat was manifest. The French naval officers thought very highly of the English life-boats, and spoke in local approval of the completeness of their equipment in every respect, and the evidence they showed of every detail having been considered as provided for by the English National Life-boat Institution.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—In addition to lovely and summer-like weather during the past week, some most refreshing and soaking showers have been experienced. They have been most acceptable in all quarters. The country now looks most verdant and full of promise of every kind. The wheat is looking remarkably well, and the spring corn also. The grass and meadow lands have likewise vastly improved, and the month of May has made its entrance under the most auspicious circumstances. The fruit-trees everywhere present a perfect "picture," and are as full of blossoms as can be. The hops are rapidly climbing up the poles, and the planters may regard with unalloyed satisfaction the healthy promise which their gardens hold out. Early on Tuesday morning a thunderstorm broke over the metropolis. The claps of thunder were loud and repeated, and the rain fell in torrents until about sunrise, when the mists caused by the rain were gradually dispersed, and by eleven o'clock the day was a brilliant one.

THE BROMPTON "BOILERS."—A meeting was held at the South Kensington Museum, on Saturday last, Earl Granville in the chair, to consider the possibility of utilising the iron buildings irreverently known as the Brompton Boilers, which till lately were used as the shell of the South Kensington Museum, but which have recently been replaced by a more highly building. The noble chairman explained that the old iron building was separable into three parts, each of which could be erected in different districts in London, and the Government proposed to give them to any district that would provide a site and raise the funds for their erection. There were gentlemen present from all parts of the metropolis, and the claims of each district were separately advocated; but, of course, no speaker was prepared to say what funds the residents in his district would raise. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting for six months, and in the mean time gentlemen undertook to see what efforts their various localities were prepared to make with a view to obtain the buildings, the chairman stating that they must not look to Government for more than the materials of the old museum, the value of which, by-the-way, some gentlemen present were disposed to place at a low figure.

PURCHASES FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Nine pictures were purchased for the National Gallery in 1864. A picture of "S. Rocco with the Angel," by Paolo Morando, called Cavazzola, and a portrait of a Venetian Senator, by Francesco Bonsignori, were purchased at Verona for £880. A canal scene in Holland, by A. Vander Neer, was purchased of the Earl of Shaftesbury for £800. Copley's picture of the death of Major Peiron was purchased at the sale of Lord Lyndhurst's pictures for £1600. Sir C. Eastlake further reports that during a journey on the Continent in the autumn of 1864, undertaken with the concurrence of the trustees and the sanction of the Treasury, the following pictures were purchased:—An altarpiece, "The Madonna and Child with S. Anna and Angels," by Girolamo da Libri, and two pictures, containing portraits of the Giusti family, by Niccolò Giolifino, purchased for £1580; a picture of the "Madonna and Child," by Sasso Ferrato, presented to Pope Gregory XVI., on his elevation to the Papal throne, by the town of Sasso Ferrato, purchased for £380; an altarpiece, by Altobello Meloni, "Christ with his Disciples Going to Emmaus," purchased for £320. An altarpiece, "The Annunciation," by Carlo Crivelli, was presented to the National Gallery by Lord Taunton. Two pictures bequeathed by Mr. J. M. Oppenheim were received—a landscape with waterfall, by Jacob Ruysdael, and an incident in a battle, painted by C. P. Tschaggeny, of Brussels, in 1848. A painting of Loch an Bille, by the Rev. J. Thomson, of Duddington, bequeathed by Mrs. Anne Thomson, was received, and Sir E. Landseer's "Maid and Magpie," bequeathed by Mr. Jacob Bell.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—The following circular has just been issued to the constituency of the University:—"Mr. Gladstone's Committee-room, King's Arms Hotel, Oxford, April 27, 1865. Sir,—It is generally understood that Parliament will be dissolved in the month of July next. A private canvass has been going on for the last twelve months in favour of Mr. Gathorne Hardy, at present M.P. for Leominster, as an opponent to Mr. Gladstone. For these reasons it seems proper that Mr. Gladstone's friends should no longer remain inactive. Mr. Gladstone has now represented the University for eighteen years, with great advantage to its interests; and his high, pure, and independent character, his eminent talents, and splendid public services have added distinction to the seat, and entitle him to a continuance of the support which the constituency has habitually given to a worthy representative once elected. The committee, therefore, hope that they may count upon your vote for Mr. Gladstone at the approaching election, and that you will oblige them by communicating with them on the subject without delay. The Universities Elections Act, passed in 1861, will enable members of Convocation to vote, without coming up to Oxford, by means of voting papers. A proper form, with directions as to the mode of execution, will be sent to you if desired.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your faithful servant, W. JACOBSON, Chairman." Mr. Gladstone's Oxford committee includes the names of about one hundred gentlemen, among whom are the following heads of houses:—The Dean of Christ Church, the Provost of Oriel, the Master of Balliol, the Principal of Brasenose, the Rev. the Rector of Lincoln, the Rev. the Principal of Jesus College, the Principal of New Inn Hall, and the Principal of St. Edmund Hall.

THE HOUSELESS POOR.—A Parliamentary return lately issued sets forth that there are, in London, the following night refuges open, where wayfarers and the very poor may find a temporary shelter; and it gives the following statistics for the month of January last concerning them:—The Dudley-street Night Refuge—Here 3243 destitute persons were admitted, while about twenty who applied were refused on the ground that they were drunk and disorderly. In this refuge, each person admitted receives an allowance of bread, gruel, and coffee, and there is not any labour test. Field-lane Refuge—Admitted, 4210 applicants. The place was each night full; and, after all the reaccommodation had been used, many applications had to be refused. Here the men are provided with each a wooden bed and a rug. In the summer they have some bread and water; in the winter, bread and coffee; and they are obliged to wash. The work asked of them is to clean the dormitory, &c., or to mend their own clothing and boots, for which purpose material is provided. Houseless Poor Asylum—To this cause 14,515 persons who found admittance, and none were refused except those who had applied too frequently, and under the rules of the Institution had thus temporarily lost the privilege of being admitted. The accommodation here is to each a waterproof bed and a leather covering, and each receives half a pound of bread at night and a like quantity in the morning. On Sundays an extra ration of bread and a piece of cheese is given for dinner. No labour test is imposed. Simple medicines and remedies are provided for urgent symptoms, but cases are not treated medically. Applicants are admitted for seven nights, and, after a fortnight's absence, are eligible for re-admission. Newport-market Refuge—4315 applicants were received, while 126 males and fifty-five females were refused, in almost every instance because the refuge was overburdened with inmates. The regulation for sleeping here is a hammock bed of cocoanut matting, twenty-two inches wide, and a strong rug rug. Each inmate receives eight ounces of bread and half a pint of coffee at night, and a like allowance of the same in the morning; they are not required to do any work. Ratcliff-cross Night Refuge—1000 of the poor found shelter, and it was not found necessary to refuse any. The relief given beyond mere shelter was to each eight ounces of bread, and it is not a regulation of the establishment to require the performance of any labour in return.

